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Forest Service

Northeastern
Area

Urban and Community Forestry Program

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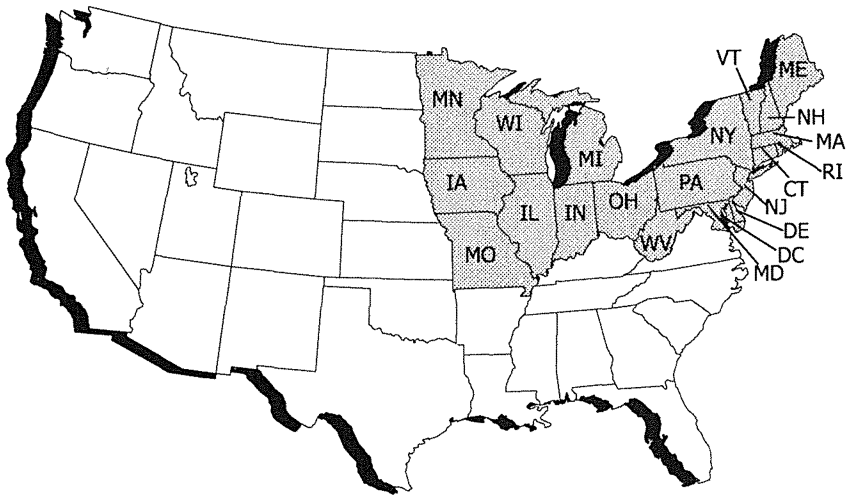
Urban and Community Forestry
Achievements in 1998

The Northeastern Area



Bringing Forestry to the People

Edited by Daniel Liptzin, Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with Robert Neville at the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry.

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Dear Friend:

The decade of the 1990s has witnessed significant change in the Urban and Community Forestry Program. We have reclaimed our responsibility as stewards of the environment evidenced by the shift in emphasis from individual trees to the comprehensive management of natural systems and processes. Our accomplishments for Fiscal Year 1998 reflect an emerging change in attitude about caring for the land and serving people where they live and work by integrating all of the appropriate USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, programs.

In 1989, the Northeastern Area assembled a core team to develop the first urban, issue-based, five-year strategic plan for the period 1990-1994. During its deliberations the team identified land use change, shifting demographics, inner city deterioration, and environmental degradation as the critical issues affecting natural systems in populated areas and, consequently, the quality of life for all citizens. As a result the focus of the urban and community forestry program was changed to include the management of all forests and related natural resources.

With development of the second five-year plan, 1995-1999, the state program coordinators reexamined the issues. Simultaneously, the comprehensive management approach advocated for urban and community forestry became more viable because of the increased national emphasis on ecosystem-based management. Several states, as illustrated in the following pages, expanded their scope of urban and community forestry to link social, economic and ecological issues.

Urban and Community Forestry has become the largest of the state and private forestry programs administered by the Forest Service in cooperation with the state foresters. With continued support from congressional leaders we are responding to the expressed wishes of the people for an improved quality of urban life. The accomplishments described here demonstrate that we can maintain traditional program values that emphasize the planting and care of individual trees but in the context of addressing larger societal issues. This is important information as we approach the task of updating our strategic direction during Fiscal Year 1999 to deal with a new century of growth and change.

I am proud of the accomplishments for Fiscal Year 1998 represented in this report. The collective activities described here reflect a commitment and professional dedication among non-governmental organizations, local citizen groups, private individuals, and local, state and federal government workers that is rare indeed.

This report and all of its many accomplishments is dedicated to the memory of Sharon Ossenbruggen, a Forest Service employee from Durham, New Hampshire. Her untimely death saddened us all but her legacy will influence urban and community forestry for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Rains

Michael T. Rains
Area Director

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Executive Summary

Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 produced advances in integrating ecological issues with growth management to improve the environment and the quality of life of urban residents. Computer modeling tools like American Forest's CITYGreen are becoming available to local units of government to assist with better land use planning and management. Additional progress can be seen in the use of partnerships to expand available resources and to increase program support at the state and local level. Citizen forester programs are one example of the expanding participation of concerned citizens who want to play an active role in restoring their communities. The future is indeed bright!

Trees, forests, and related natural resources are the basic tools of the program. When managed appropriately, these resources can contribute substantially to the well being and long-term sustainability of urban communities. Benefits include clean air and water, habitats for wild creatures, usable open space, and a visually pleasing environment. Unfortunately, these potential benefits of natural resources are frequently overlooked because of a general lack of understanding and appreciation of their value in urban areas. Expanding awareness is one of the primary goals of the urban and community forestry program.

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance is delivered to local communities in two components: a federal program and a state program. Funding from Congress to the Forest Service is pro-rated regionally according to population and the number of communities. Of the funds coming to the Northeastern Area, a portion is used to sustain a federal technical assistance program and various Congressional initiatives, the remainder is distributed pro rata to the states.

Forest Service personnel in three field offices of the subregions of the Northeastern Area provide administrative support and technical assistance to twenty northeastern states and the District of Columbia. This includes oversight for special initiatives by Congress to address specific urban natural resource restoration issues such as Chicago GreenStreets or the Northeast Pennsylvania project. Similarly, it includes a pilot project initiated in the Department of Agriculture known as the Urban Resources Partnership (URP) program, designed to facilitate cooperation among federal agencies in addressing local community natural resource problems. Six cities in the northeast have been designated as URP cities.

Another source of federal urban and community forestry funds is provided to the states through the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). This group, which advises the Secretary of Agriculture, awards competitive grants to communities and groups that are addressing key national issues relating to urban natural resources management. Eight of these grants were awarded throughout the Northeastern Area in FY 1998.

Over $11 Million was distributed among the twenty Northeastern Area states and the District of Columbia in FY 1998. Of this total each state and the district received a $150,000 base allocation to conform to federal requirements of having a full time program coordinator, a volunteer coordinator, an active advisory council, and a current five-year plan. The remaining funds, distributed pro rata, are used by the states to support local community activities. Some states use the funds for internal staffing and provide technical and financial assistance to communities as requested. Others allocate most of the federal funds to grants-in-aid projects where communities compete for financial assistance. In FY 1998, the program produced significant accomplishments addressing a wide range of urban issues and involving thousands of hours of citizen volunteer labor.

America's Urban Opportunities

Investment in appropriate management of our natural resources contributes to meeting the many challenges facing America's urban communities. Natural resources include the air, water, soil, vegetation, and wildlife. Integration of these resources into the planning for the revitalization and development of our communities is an opportunity to address the social, economic, and environmental health of all Americans in a comprehensive manner.

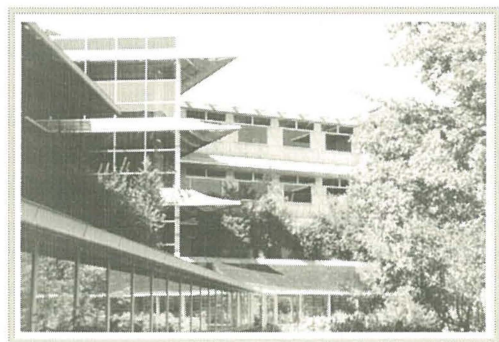
Education, financial investment, and an active citizenry are essential to realize the benefits natural resources provide. Comprehensive natural resources management is an opportunity to assure sustainable community revitalization and development.

Managing natural resources will

- Improve Water Quality
- Improve Air Quality
- Reduce Pollution
- Improve Community Health

- Improve Stormwater Management
- Reduce Infrastructure Costs
- Reduce Flooding

- Lead to Comprehensive Land Use and Management
- Promote Sustainable Development
- Increase Recreational Opportunities



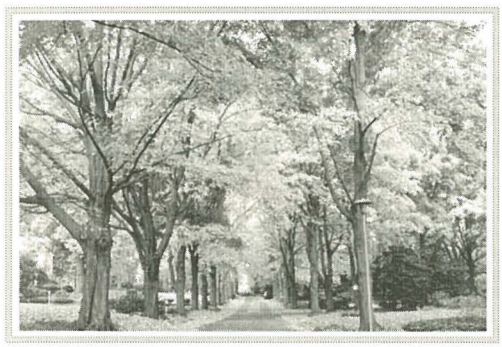
Natural Resources Stewardship

Natural resources invigorate our communities, maintain stability, provide a sense of belonging, and sustain our cities as desirable, healthy places.

In order for us to benefit from the opportunities natural resources provide, they must be managed effectively and included in all aspects of land use planning.

Management of urban natural resources enhances the benefits of trees.

Trees & Vegetation...



- ...reduce stormwater discharge by up to 40 percent.

- ...increase the value of property by up to 20 percent.

- ...reduce home heating and cooling costs by up to 30 percent, potentially saving the nation almost $1.5 billion a year.

- ...increase community pride.
- ...purify the air and reduce particulate airborne pollution by up to 80 percent.

Vision

The vision for urban and community forestry in the Northeastern Area has remained essentially constant since 1990, "...to achieve community sustainability and an enhanced quality of life through stewardship of urban and community forests and related natural resources." Implied in this statement is full participation by all those who affect or are affected by decisions relating to natural resources and their management in urban areas. This reflects a fundamental shift in responsibility from government to individual citizens to accept a key role for the stewardship of critical natural systems that sustain our collective well being.

Natural systems and processes provide an incalculable service to society in terms of mitigating air and water pollution, reducing flooding, providing abundant clean water, agricultural pollination, and maintaining essential biological diversity. These natural systems require management and care in populated areas if they are to continue to function. The responsibility for management is complex and must be shared among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and citizens from all walks of life.

The goals of the Urban and Community Forestry Program are to effect change within the various agencies, organizations, and individuals through awareness, outreach, partnerships, and ecosystem-based management. The focus is on ecological health in combination with social and economic well being as they contribute to healthy and sustainable communities. Fiscal Year 1999 is the final year for the current 1995-1999 strategic plan; thus, these goals could change as issues and opportunities are revisited during the 2000 – 2004 update.

Our vision is of high quality, sustainable communities, which is achieved through comprehensive urban natural resources stewardship by a committed society.

Goals

Awareness

Create a responsible public and responsive government by promoting an understanding of stewardship. Emphasize the social, economic, and environmental values of trees, forests, and related natural resources in cities and communities to the public and others.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Expand program participation by involving minorities, people of color, American Indian nations, people with disabilities, and under-served populations in all aspects of urban and community forestry.

Partnerships

Create and maintain partnerships that strengthen cooperative working relationships and integrate diverse activities among public and private agencies and organizations at federal, state and local levels.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

Implement an ecological approach that integrates biophysical, social, and economic considerations to support healthy, sustainable communities.

Program Components

Since 1978, the Urban and Community Forestry Program has funded federal, state, and local natural resources management programs through technical assistance.

The Northeastern Area Program for 1998 consisted of six components:

1. **The State Program**
2. **The Federal Program**
3. **Centers of Excellence**
4. **National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Grants**
5. **Congressional Initiatives**
6. **Urban Resources Partnerships (URPs)**
7. **Federal Financial Assistance**

1. The State Program

The State Program delivers funding and technical assistance to communities and organizations at the local level. Each state decides how to use the federal funds according to local needs and priorities. Federal funding is monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis. Annual reports are produced that relate annual accomplishments to the goals and objectives in each state's strategic plan.

Following are the highlights for the Northeastern Area from the annual accomplishments reports prepared by the twenty northeastern states and the District of Columbia.

Connecticut

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Although approximately 80% of Connecticut's citizens live in urban or suburban areas, the state's urban forest was in decline until the advent of the Urban Forestry Assistance Program. In the past ten years the number of towns with tree inventories has increased from 5 to 35, and almost half of the state's municipalities have witnessed tree planting projects.

Program Components

Grant Aid
Technical Assistance
Partnerships
Education

Highlights

A **statewide grants program** has resulted in the planting of an average of 1,000 balled and burlapped tress over the past 7 years. In FY 1998, 16 communities planted 312 trees.

Two **self-guided tree walks** were developed in the **Town of Bloomfield** to increase the community's awareness of the importance and beauty of the town's tree resources. A description of the walks is available at the public library and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

A **pocket parks program** initiated in 1996 has resulted in the cleaning and greening of 6 vacant lots in underserved neighborhoods in **Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven,** and **Waterbury**. This year the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded four additional grants of $10,000 to Hartford, Bridgeport, **Willamantic,** and **Meriden** for the creation of pocket parks or schoolyard habitats.

Bob Ricard of the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension coauthored a book, ***The Value of Trees in Connecticut's Urban Forest,*** which has won widespread acclaim for its description of Connecticut's trees. This publication has deepened the understanding of the state's leaders and policy makers about the importance of the state's trees. It was distributed to the state legislators, state foresters, every library in the state, and urban forestry coordinators across the country.

The DEP and the Center for Urban Forestry at the University of Massachusetts conducted two **training programs for volunteer tree inventories**. Students at the Yale School of Forestry, volunteers for the Urban Resources Initiative at Yale, City Parks officials, and local residents conducted a tree inventory in the Newhallville section of New Haven. In the Springdale section of **Stamford,** trees were inventoried with the cooperation of the City of Stamford, Stamford Tree Foundation, and local residents. The inventories will be digitized and added to the existing GIS database in each town. This data will be used to provide base information for each tree for annual maintenance needs.

The DEP and the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension continued to develop new partnerships. Representatives of 16 towns attended the **Meskwaka Training** at Connecticut College in New London. Meskwaka has now trained over 125 volunteers in the past six years.

The newly formed tree committee in Clinton, **Our Town Trees**, conducted a comprehensive inventory of the town's forest resources. The committee published the results in a binder which was made available to community members.

The winner of the Arbor Day Poster Contest, Nicole Scigagnano, helps to plant a tree on the grounds of her school.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	194.5	229.7	213.2	208.3

Delaware

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The Urban and Community Forestry Program assists cities and towns with proper planning, management, and maintenance of trees, forests, and other natural resources. The protection of the state's tree resources is essential as Delaware's communities expand and grow.

Program Components

Education
Technical Assistance
Tree Inventories
Planning Policies
Tree City USA

Highlights

Urban forestry legislation was passed which recognized the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) as the state organization responsible for urban forestry assistance. In addition, it formally established the Delaware Community Forestry Council and developed a process for communities to create **comprehensive urban forestry plans**.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program cosponsored the regional **"Storms Over the Urban Forest" Conference** with Maryland, Virginia, and the USDA Forest Service. The two-day conference addressed the planning and management of community tree resources to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. Numerous private tree care businesses, non-profit organizations, school administrators, state agency staff, and city officials attended the sessions.

The **City of Dover implemented its storm alert plan** after a severe thunderstorm extensively damaged the city. The local television station broadcasted a segment with the Urban Forest Coordinator about the storm damage and the importance of mature tree care. Urban and Community Forestry folders with storm damage information were sent to homeowners throughout the city.

A partnership between the DDA Forest Service, American Forests, and the City of Dover Planning Department used the CITYGreen GIS computer program to maximize the effectiveness of tree planting in a new residential development, The Village of Cannon Mills. The Planning Department evaluated the proposed planting plan and then **determined the energy conservation, storm water management, and air quality benefits from improved species selection and landscape design**.

The **Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation** partnered with numerous schools and community centers, including the Latin American Community Center and several African-American community centers, to plant trees and promote public education as part of **Arbor Day** celebrations. The diverse student population in Wilmington assisted in the tree planting and will continue the maintenance of these trees as part of their environmental science curriculum.

A representative from Yves Rocher, an international cosmetic company, worked with the Urban Forest Coordinator to develop a joint

environmental education program. The company had already sponsored an existing program "An Arboretum in Every School" that promotes outdoor environmental education centers for elementary schools.

The Kent County Parks and Recreation Department, with the assistance of the DDA Forest Service and Poly Tech High School students, is **conducting an inventory and mapping the natural resources on county lands**. The results will be used to develop a planning policy for the management of public open spaces within the county's land use plan.

The **Village of Arden**, on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed in the Garden City Concept with 45% communal lands devoted to open space and greenbelts. The village is **developing a management plan for its open spaces**. The completed planning phases included an assessment of existing conditions, community workshops, and a conceptual design for the open spaces. The final phase of the plan will identify planting specifications, prioritize sites for implementation projects, and develop cost estimates.

A **database** is being developed, with the assistance of the Urban Forestry Coordinator at the Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum, to monitor the accomplishment of grant projects and identify the needs of communities for urban forestry management.

Cleaning up storm damage

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	163.7	174.7	170.5	294.8

District of Columbia

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The Urban Forestry Program promotes the participation of volunteers and organizations working with the District of Columbia government and the Urban Forestry Council to improve the management of the city's natural resources.

Program Components

Partnerships
Volunteer Training
Tree Planting
Education

Highlights

The **Dutch Elm Disease Control Project** was funded through the Cooperative Health Management Program to lower the incidence of the disease to a manageable level. The project is a joint partnership among the Trees and Landscape Division (TLD), the USDA Forest Service, and the National Park Service. Approximately 446 infected elm trees were removed, lightly infected trees were pruned, and all trees were inspected along designated streets.

The **Lamond Riggs Athletic Association** received a grant to teach school children the importance of making educated choices about nutritional eating. A community garden in the neighborhood supplemented the classroom lessons on eating healthily.

The Urban Forestry Council (UFC) provided various resources to community groups. With the assistance of the TLD over **225 street trees** were provided to community groups, citywide, for neighborhood plantings. The UFC provided grants to community groups to start or improve urban forestry programs.

The UFC sponsored the Audubon Society's proposal, in partnership with LaSalle Elementary School, to pilot a **native wildflower garden**. The garden will be incorporated into the curriculum to provide hands-on environmental education to 4th graders with the school's grounds and neighborhood as a laboratory.

The Urban Forestry Program is increasing the number of new volunteers in underserved areas participating in environmental and education activities and tree plantings. Diversification of the ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds of the volunteers is also occurring.

A public information campaign with the theme **"Like Any Other Living Thing, Trees Need Care"** was launched citywide. Posters, information brochures, buttons, and magnets were distributed to school and non-profit organizations to highlight the value of trees and the need for tree maintenance.

"If I knew I was going to die tomorrow, I would plant a tree today."
Martin Luther King Jr.

The TLD entered into an agreement with the District of Columbia Housing Authority to educate residents of public housing developments with **workshops and field trips about tree care** and other environmentally related issues. The workshops, designed for adults and children, have instructed approximately 200 people in community centers at public housing locations. The goal of the project is to provide environmental education to all public housing sites over the next two years.

The Department of Recreation and Parks' Educational Environmental Center completed its second year of providing indoor classroom education and activities for hundreds of children. In addition, there is a greenhouse and flower and vegetable garden connected with the center that provides opportunities for youth to have hands-on experiences. The number of youth served was dramatically increased as a result of increased funding for staff and supplies.

Girl scouts help to plant street trees in front of a church.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	431.8	218.0	218.5	140.7

Illinois

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The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Forest Resources, Urban and Community Forestry Program has a goal of helping communities and urban areas sustain the health and integrity of their forest resources. The Program provides support to establish local urban forestry programs to plant trees on public land and nurture the health of all trees within the community.

Program Components

Technical Assistance
Workshops/Training
Tree City USA
Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter
Grant Assistance

Highlights

In 1997, Illinois remained second in the nation with **147 Tree City USA communities**. The state was ranked second with 45 Tree City USA Growth Awards given to communities surpassing the standard local forestry programs.

Grants from IDNR, matched with $150,000 in local funding, helped **30 communities establish or enhance urban and community forestry programs**. Projects included 11 street tree inventories, five management plans, five public education projects, six tree planting projects, six tree care ordinances, five tree boards, and three tree risk management programs. Over 20 of the communities will subcontract with consultant foresters, use student internships, or provide adults with summer employment.

The Illinois Department of Transportation adopted tree replacement standards and a tree protection policy based on the **Natural Resources Conservation Services Illinois Urban Manual**. The manual, which describes methods of urban ecosystem protection and enhancements, is also available to other state agencies and communities.

Each year four issues of the ***Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter*** are distributed to over 3,000 municipalities, citizens, and government officials. It provides timely information on urban forestry management issues, gives technical updates, reports on program initiatives, and informs citizens of natural resources opportunities.

Over $90,000 of funding was provided to a diverse group of urban forestry projects. These included the Chicago Parks District Stewardship Days, the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, a public service announcement promoting tree care, a community forestry video, staff positions, and a tree risk management workshops.

The eight regional **Urban Forestry Councils** provided a range of technical assistance and outreach activities. They exhibited displays at regional events such as Bald Eagle Days, Symphony in Bloom, and Earth Month at Peoria Park Districts, and they developed a regional tree planting and selection guide.

The State Program helped citizens and local governments network with state and federal agencies to secure resources that address natural resource issues. For example, IDNR helped provide **8,000 seedlings from the National Tree Trust** to 19 government and non-profit groups.

IDNR created a position at Southern Illinois University to assist with volunteer coordination and provide technical assistance for the communities south of Interstate-70. Accomplishments include creating a web site listing Southern Illinois nurseries, certified arborists, and urban forestry resources, establishing a volunteer outreach program for conducting community tree inventories, providing a hands-on experience for Southern Illinois University forestry students, and facilitating urban forestry workshops.

Preschoolers from the youth center help Colonel Michael Wooley to plant a tree on Scott Air Force Base in honor of Arbor Day.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	377.5	438.8	541.9	364.9

Indiana

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Urban trees and forests provide many psychological and economic benefits which improve the standard of living for Indiana's citizens. The Indiana Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program is dedicated to promoting urban forestry by nurturing activities at the local level.

Program Components

Technical Assistance
Public Awareness
Partnerships
Funding
Transferring Expertise to Professionals

Highlights

The U&CF Program distributed both federal and state funding to communities. The **Hometown Indiana Program** awarded $381,230 in state funding to 31 Hometown Indiana Grantees for tree planting projects and program development activities. The federal assistance provided $183,000 to fund Arbor Day projects and to develop community forestry programs.

State Forester Burney Fischer and Volunteer Coordinator Pam Louks traveled throughout the state to present **Tree City USA** awards to 18 cities and towns, including four new Tree City USAs.

The U&CF Program continued to form new partnerships. A pilot project with groups in Marion County called **Trees for Furniture** will set up a process to produce wood products from urban tree removal. A new partnership with the **Indiana Cemeteries Association** will lead to an assessment of the value of cemeteries as urban green space.

A partnership with the Historic Landmarks Foundation was established to assist urban forestry projects at sites with historical significance. A tree replacement plan was created for a road-widening project along historic U.S. Route 40 in the Town of Cumberland. A tree management plan was developed for the state historic site, Verestau.

The U&CF Program provided several forums for information dissemination. The biannual ***Indiana Green Streets*** newsletter was distributed to over 4,000 cities and towns, non-profit organizations, and citizens. Ten workshops were held including Hazard Tree Evaluation, Grant Writing, the Tree Line Regional Conference, the Indiana Arborists Association annual conference, and Basic Tree Care in **Madison, Indianapolis,** and **Plymouth**.

A grant program was initiated to fund county Tree Steward Programs. Similar to Master Gardeners, Tree Stewards attend seven training sessions on tree planting and care, and then volunteer their expertise in their communities.

At the request of the First Lady, the Governor's residence was used as an urban forestry demonstration site. A tree inventory and management plan was completed, and Asplundh Tree Experts and the Indiana Arborists Association donated their services to prune trees. **Governor and Mrs. O'Bannon opened their property for the Community Forest Festival** to demonstrate urban forestry activities, present Tree City USA awards, and promote urban wood utilization. Hazardous trees were removed from the property, and school wood shops throughout the state returned finished wood products to the Governor.

The **Town of English** was relocated from the floodplain to an undeveloped area because of perpetual flooding. Since the town was created anew, an urban forestry plan could be developed at the same time as the development of the town.

Indianapolis Beautiful was assisted with two projects planting 180 donated trees at schools. The teachers, who received Project Learning Tree training, and their students continued to beautify the school grounds with other plantings.

Governor and Mrs. O'Bannon demonstrate their interest in urban forestry.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	272.1	299.3	275.2	261.3

Iowa

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61% of the 2.7 million Iowans live in over 950 urban and community areas. Trees, whether growing on communities' streets, parks, riparian areas, or private properties, provide a wide range of benefits related to energy conservation, increased property values, improved environmental protection, and beauty. The Iowa Urban and Community Forestry Council (IUCFC) was formed in 1990 to gather information concerning urban forest ecosystems, identify urban and community forestry issues, help develop policies, and implement recommendations.

Program Components

State and Local Partnerships
Technical Assistance
Education and Training
Volunteer Coordination
Seed Funds
Recognition

Highlights

During Earth Week students participated in the **Reading Rangers** program by reading as many books and pages as possible about the environment. For every 20 pages read, the Iowa DNR planted a tree. Iowa students read 81,642 pages resulting in **the planting of 4,083 new trees** at Loess Hills State Forest.

Trees For Kids is a cooperative tree education and planting program for elementary and secondary schools across Iowa. In 1998, **4,650 teachers and youth leaders received specially designed educational materials** and worked with over 344,000 Iowa elementary and secondary students. The students then worked with local nurseries and banks to plant over 55,500 trees on public areas with a wholesale value of over $2.7 million. Utility and industrial organizations provided over $44,000 in private donations to run the program.

In the **Des Moines and Council Bluffs metro areas**, efforts to encourage neighborhood revitalization have involved **Adopt-A-Tree** residential programs to make landscape trees available for residential planting at reduced costs. With approximately $30,000 in seed funds, a total of 950 trees were adopted in the Des Moines area and 600 trees in the Council Bluffs area. **MidAmerican Energy provided $48,500** in matching grants to 52 Iowa communities to assist in community wide reforestation efforts.

A total of **27 community tree workshops,** coordinated by Iowa State University (ISU) Extension Forestry and Horticulture, attracted 790 people. ISU Extension also coordinated two additional training sessions for the highly regarded **Community Tree Steward program** where volunteers receive 24 hours of intensive training in exchange for at least 24 hours of community service. The program has increased its total of graduates to 261 who have provided a total of over **7,000 hours in community service** to date. **Youth Tree Steward training** was also provided to 431 5th and 6th graders who subsequently worked on school tree care efforts.

In partnership with the statewide nonprofit, **Trees Forever,** 315 Iowa communities received volunteer coordination and training. Trees Forever, in cooperation with **IES Utilities and Peoples Natural Gas, provided over $261,000** in matching funds for community tree planting. Utilizing Iowa Department of Transportation ISTEA Enhancement funds, Trees Forever coordinated **16 roadside enhancement projects** totaling over $92,000. In addition, 20 communities received landscape architecture development and visioning in cooperation with Iowa State University College of Landscape and Design.

The Iowa Urban and Community Forestry Council published 2 issues of its ***Community Trees*** **newsletter** to a mailing list of over 8,000 community leaders. In addition, 310 people attended the Council's **8th Community Forestry Awards** Luncheon, in cooperation with MidAmerican Energy, for outstanding volunteers, professionals, communities, and Arbor Day Poster Contest winners.

The Iowa DNR and **ISU Extension Forestry** cooperatively led a campaign concerning storm repairs to trees because of numerous severe weather events in Iowa; a total of **81 Iowa counties were declared federal disaster areas**. Workshops, publications, tree surveys, and one on one assistance was offered in the hardest hit communities of Oskaloosa, Pella, Washington, Amana Colonies, Marengo, Des Moines, Council Bluffs, and Williamsburg. A total of 282 property owners attended **"Is my Tree Ok" days** in several communities, and 753 trees were evaluated as a result.

Trees for Kids Projects at the Lovejoy School in Des Moines gave kids hands-on opportunities to learn about trees.

Maine

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This year one major event profoundly impacted urban forestry in Maine - the January ice storm. Although the storm devastated the tree resources in many Maine communities, it generated a renewed awareness of the value of urban trees and town forests.

Program Components

Tree Planting
Education
Technical Assistance
Partnerships

Highlights

The **Pine Tree State Arboretum** works in partnership with the Maine Forest Service to distribute technical and planning assistance to volunteer groups, municipalities, grass roots organizations, and citizens involved in community forestry programs. This year workshops were conducted on grant writing, municipal tree ordinances, tree health and maintenance, and nursery stock selection and planting. The arboretum also provided Maine's citizens with urban forestry information in a quarterly newsletter distributed to 1,500 people and on their web site, as well as at outreach events with the Maine Arborist Association, Maine Pomological Society, Maine Garden Day, and various other Arbor Week Activities.

The tremendous support for the urban forestry program in the **Town of Union** was evident in the $10,086 in matching funds raised for a $2,888 grant. A tree nursery was established to grow future planting stock. Students, teachers, and the parent-teachers association, in partnership with the Maine Conservation Corps, created a one-mile self-guided tree trail on school property. The students continue to learn from the project by maintaining tree journals.

In the **City of Belfast** urban forestry means protecting its tree resources and teaching children to be community stewards. Local volunteers participated in the Belfast Heritage Tree Day by planting trees. A public tree resource report was produced which included a tree planting plan, a review and reevaluation of the previous tree inventories, and recommendations for a town tree ordinance. Twenty-five Young Citizen and Junior Citizen Tree Stewards were given instruction in tree identification, tree care, tree planting, and citizen participation with many adopting a tree.

The **University of Southern Maine at Portland** created a slide show and held workshops describing how to conduct logging operations around cultural resources such as old farm sites, stone walls, granite mines, old mill sites, and other historic areas found in woodlands.

A videotape was developed at **Southern Maine Technical College** concerning the plight of urban and community trees. The videotape, which chronicles the life and death of a typical urban tree, shows the causes of shortened tree life and provides information about the care of young trees.

The **L.C. Bates Museum**, on the grounds on the Good-Will-Hinckley School, began to rejuvenate the arboretum on its grounds by creating an advisory board, surveying the existing trees, and formulating a plan for future planting. A maintenance plan was developed for each tree, and it will be implemented by students and volunteers. In addition, 37 children and volunteers assisted in the hand planting of 58 new trees and shrubs. The museum also has developed training programs for teachers as well as educational activities for students using 12 outdoor urban forestry sites.

The students in grades 6-8 in the **Town of Millbridge** constructed a half-mile walking trail with interpretive signs for use by students and residents. The student ownership of this project has resulted in no vandalism in any part of the forest. With the help of the Dirtgrubbers Garden Club and town employees, they removed litter, chipped brush, and hauled chips to smooth the trail.

Students at the Good-Will-Hinckley School eagerly planting trees

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	192.0	230.5	336.4	2,289.9*

*Includes $2,084,000 in Ice Storm funds

Maryland

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The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) placed great emphasis on resource protection through legislation, partnerships with private groups and public agencies, outreach to urban and suburban dwellers, and the development of ecosystem-based approaches to urban forestry management.

Program Components

Forest Conservation Program
Licensed Tree Expert Program
Maryland Community Forest Council
Maryland PLANT Communities
Reforestation Program
Roadside Tree Program
Tree City USA
TreeMendous Maryland

Highlights

Participation in the Tree City USA program increased 15% to 37 communities last year. Participating jurisdictions spent an average of $4.14 per capita for a total of $9,088,685 to support urban forestry programs for 2,195,399 citizens.

Over 15,000 volunteers offered nearly 60,000 hours of service toward tree planting, care, and maintenance, as well as other projects sponsor by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Forest Service. These volunteers received 3,750 seat hours of training to prepare them.

Several pieces of legislation are helping to protect forests in Maryland. Under Maryland's **Reforestation Law** the UCF staff facilitated the restoration of 338 acres of forest. The state legislature approved mitigation banking, under the State's **Forest Conservation Act**, as a way to set aside sensitive land with long-term protection to be used for mitigation projects.

The People Loving and Nurturing Trees (PLANT) Community awards program, sponsored by the Maryland Community Forestry Council and DNR-Forest Service, continued to reward small communities and organizations for their tree projects. This year the award criteria were revised, allowing greater flexibility and recognition to a wider group of potential participants. In 1998, there were 67 PLANT communities, a 250% increase over the previous year.

The **Maryland Community Forestry Council** updated its Memorandum of Understanding with DNR to facilitate their working relationship. The Council achieved sustainability goals through increased membership and the receipt of $10,000 in funds and gifts. The Council assisted Bartlett Tree Experts and the **City of Westminster** in conducting the 5th Annual Community Forestry Workshop.

The **TreeMendous Maryland** program partnered with other government agencies, businesses, and the public in an effort to "re-green" Maryland. A partnership with the United Way of Central Maryland has helped to introduce the UCF program to businesses that volunteer to plant and maintain trees and often offer financial assistance as well. For example, Northrop Grumman and Bovis Construction helped plant and finance the buffers they installed. The local volunteer fire department helped water 300 trees planted at Bear Creek Park in **Baltimore County**, and the Department of Public Works helped water newly planted trees during the ongoing drought. Many local volunteer agencies and businesses provided mulch and helped deliver the trees.

The article, "A Survey of Licensed Tree Experts in Maryland," published in the *Journal of Arboriculture*, revealed that the tree expert testing process needed revision. The test is currently being rewritten by the DNR-Information and Education Team, DNR-UCF, Maryland Community Forest Council, Maryland Arborist Association, Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service. The UCF staff is working closely with the Maryland Arborist Association on proposed bills to review the Tree Expert law during the 1999 legislative session.

The Town of Mount Rainier is proceeding with the development of their model **Urban Forest Management Plan** by using the ecosystem-based approach. The issuance of a grant using fee-in-lieu funds helped to implement the recommendations of the Street Tree Biodiversity Analysis for urban health protection. The town insisted on incorporating the DNR-Forest Service review and recommendations into major downtown streetscape improvements.

The **Stream ReLeaf Program** calls for 43 linear miles of riparian forest buffer to be planted annually between 1997 and 2010. During the second year of this program, 65 miles of buffer were completed which was an increase of 58% over the first year. UCF funding and volunteer partners helped to complete 129% of the target for the first two years.

UCF staff conducted 15 urban forestry training workshops to 644 participants, a 41% increase in seat hours. Topics covered right-of-way vegetation management, arborist safety, and hazard tree evaluation. In addition, 130 individuals from public agencies and commercial tree firms passed the **Maryland Licensed Tree Expert/ Roadside Tree Expert test** administered by the UCF staff.

Federal Program Support *Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	394.7	320.5	281.6	302.6

Massachusetts

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From individual trees to woodland parks to entire watersheds, the Massachusetts Urban Forestry Program has captured the imagination of residents and officials to maintain and improve the quality of life in their communities.

Program Components

Tree Inventories/ Management Plans
Technology Transfer
Grant Aid
Education and Outreach
Community Action

Highlights

Urban and community forestry maintained a high profile statewide. More than 800 large trees were planted along streets and in parks and community greenways using $100,000 in matching funds from the state. The State Program documented **a record 14,000 seat hours of training** and 4.27 million media impressions.

"We hope to heighten public awareness of the connection between trees and community well-being."

Brooke Thompson-Mills, of the Stoughton Urban Forestry Committee, in *The Patriot Ledger*, April 13, 1998

The number of sustained Tree City USAs has tripled from 18 to 56 since 1994.

A monthly newsletter, ***The Citizen Forester***, was mailed to an expanding list of community leaders including elected officials, tree advocates, municipal managers, and corporations.

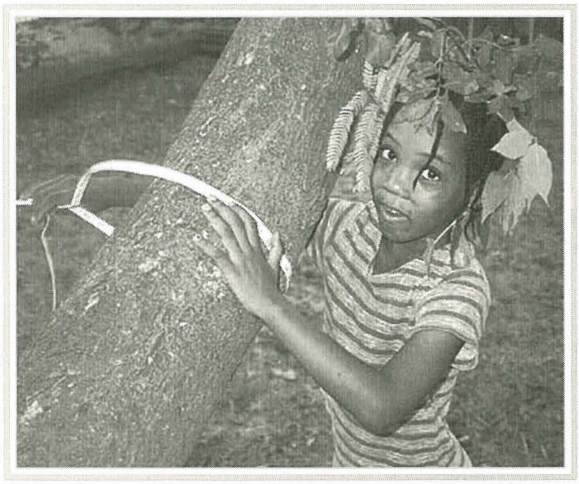
The **Massachusetts Community Forestry Council** released a legislative report, *Trees, People, and Places*, and introduced it to lawmakers on the steps of the State Capitol. The Senate minority leader, Brian Lees, remarked that he had never seen so many of his colleagues join a release of this kind in his tenure in state politics. The publication covered the efforts of residents and professionals to protect trees across the state.

The **Metropolitan Area Planning Council** produced an educational video on the role of trees in urban watersheds. Focusing on the Mystic River, the council organized residents and local officials in adjacent communities to tie green interpretive ribbons around street and park trees that delineate the boundary of its watershed. The communities included **Arlington** (pop. 45,000), **Cambridge** (pop. 96,000), **Lexington** (pop. 29,000), **Somerville** (pop. 76,000), and **Watertown** (pop. 33,000), all of which have Tree City USA status.

The **Williamstown** (pop. 8,000) Elementary School converted its back playfield into an outdoor classroom designed by students and teachers. The miniature pasture/woodland/ wetland site has been fully integrated into the K-6 curricula. The design included a new pathway providing access to an extended care facility.

The Town of **Acton** (pop. 18,000) and the City of **Pittsfield** (pop. 49,000), guided by local non-profit groups and the Forest Health Program, compiled information on community arboreta. This resulted in professional maps of the tree collections and long-term plans for expansion and maintenance.

With assistance from University of Massachusetts-Amherst, the **Boston Greenspace Alliance** completed a tree inventory in the historic Franklin Park woodland designed by Olmsted in the 1880s. Investigations discovered an elaborate planting of tree types mimicking a transect from coastal Massachusetts to the Berkshire Mountains.



People of all races and ages participate in measuring community trees in Massachusetts.

The successful **Heritage Tree Care grants** continue to attract significant media attention on the ecological and cultural significance of large, established trees in highly visible locations. More than 100 prominent "Heritage" trees were pruned, cabled, and fertilized in 15 communities. The Town of **Wellesley** (pop. 27,000) treated the Station Oak which has stood on the town common since 1840. The Town of **Belmont** (pop. 25,000) improved the health of the Winslow Homer trees, planted by famous painter in the 1800s and appearing in his painting "Croquet on the Lawn."

The state's community action forester assisted 11 municipalities in organizing and training residents to inventory community trees. Cities and towns included **Holyoke** (pop. 44,000), **Westfield** (pop. 38,000), **Sturbridge** (pop. 8,000), **Maynard** (pop. 10,000), **Haverhill** (pop. 51,000), **Manchester** (pop. 5,000), **Marblehead** (pop. 20,000), **Chelsea** (pop. 29,000), **Arlington** (pop. 45,000), **Stoughton** (pop. 27,000), and **Fall River** (pop. 93,000). The survey and inventory data collected this year fueled media attention and debate in local government resulting in several master plans for the long-term planning and maintenance of street and park trees.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	297.2	288.9	256.0	365.7*

*Includes $98,000 for a NUCFAC grant

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Communities in Michigan face pressures from changing land use, contamination, development, and changing community needs, perceptions, and priorities. The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program provides a conduit for information, technical expertise, and incentives to communities to encourage management of natural resources on a local and regional scale.

Program Components

Education
Technical Assistance
Information
Grants

Highlights

A total of $158,800 in grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community Forestry Program was awarded to 37 communities, including 11 grants to conduct **tree inventories**. For example, after its inventory of public trees revealed a high percentage of maple, the **City of Lathrup** decided that future tree planting should focus on diversifying its urban forest.

Michigan's **Visiting Urban Forester program** provided technical expertise and recommendations for initiating or augmenting community forestry programs to 34 communities. The $8,000 grant from the DNR supporting this program was matched by $13,500 volunteer in-kind hours and a $3,350 cash match from communities. Since these visits have successfully increased awareness of urban forestry, several other states across the country have adopted this program to expand their community outreach.

Recent severe weather throughout the state prompted communities to prepare better **storm response plans**. The DNR partnered with the Emergency Management Division of the State Police, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Forest and Park Association, and other organizations to obtain a $15,000 Federal Emergency Management Act Hazard Mitigation Grant. Two storm preparedness workshops were conducted to teach the participants how to work with emergency management agencies, who to contact, and how to clean up after storms.

In response to a severe storm, representatives from state and local governments, as well as private and non-profit organizations, formed the **Storm Reforestation Alliance** to promote tree-planting in southeastern Michigan. Over 500 residents and volunteers planted 788 trees to replace the 5,700 trees damaged on public property. The DNR Community Forestry Program provided $10,000 for tree planting in communities, including **Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck**, which helped to leverage an additional $47,000 for trees.

As a voluntary participant in the US Department of Energy's Climate Challenge, Detroit Edison partnered with the DNR to **plant over 10 million trees and seedlings** over the past three years to sequester carbon, produce oxygen, and protect soil. The partnership, which began through work on the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council, created a new urban tree planting program awarding 17 grants totaling over $60,000.

The UCF Program partnered with the **Michigan Envirothon** and others to host the national Envirothon - a natural resources competition for high school students. This national competition adopted Michigan Envirothon's unique ecosystem approach to the competition. The 30 teams from the United States and Canada were questioned about forests, soils, water, and wildlife at outdoor sites.

The DNR-Forest Management Division partnered with the DNR-Wildlife Division, the Michigan Habitat Foundation, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Beautiful, the Ingham Soil Conservation District, Michigan State University Extension, and Project Wild Michigan to fund the **NEST 2000 Project**. These grants will provide 10 outdoor classrooms at schools including **Engadine, Midland, and Rogers City**. A $9,000 Forest Management Division grant was matched by a $15,000 Wildlife Division grant.

The UCF staff provided technical assistance at the **DNR's Pocket Park** during the State Fair. The 100,000 visitors enjoyed fishing, exhibits and seminars, and a landscape of native trees and wildflowers. Future plans include year-round environmental education programs at the State Fairgrounds in Detroit.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	262.3	362.5	326.5	311.2

Minnesota

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Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) in Minnesota is a cooperative effort among many entities including federal, state, local, non-profit, and volunteer organizations. The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in Minnesota seeks to strengthen advocacy of U&CF by local leaders and to increase the capacity of local units of government to manage their community forest resources appropriately.

Program Components

Technical Assistance
Partnerships
Outreach

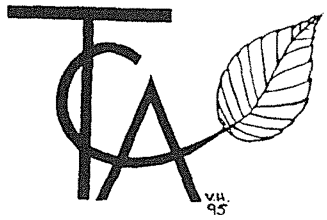
Highlights

The DNR-Forestry Division added two new staff positions to provide technical assistance. A forest restoration ecologist was hired to provide natural resource assistance to communities. The ecologist teaches residents how to monitor tree plantings and other restoration projects and how to incorporate natural resources into management plans. A natural resource specialist is developing a handbook, *Best Management Practices for Developing Woodlands,* for use by land use planners, developers, and homeowners.

After a year of severe weather, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and its partners provided numerous neighborhood and regional workshops, a storm hotline, and fact sheets to help communities respond and recover from storms. With the assistance of University of Minnesota students and faculty, the DNR staff conducted a survey of 400 towns to determine the extent of storm damage and the clean up costs.

The **Minnesota ReLeaf Grant Program** provided state funds for 78 communities and non-profits groups to plant over 10,000 mostly native trees and to treat community forest health problems, including 400 oak wilt centers. Increased state support for 1999 to 2001 will also provide cost-share tree inventories.

The **Tree Care Advisor (TCA) Program** was initiated in 1993 to train local volunteers to be trained advocates for urban forestry projects. Since 1993, the over 150 TCA graduates have documented nearly 20,000 hours of volunteer service. They have assisted in countless Arbor Day, neighborhood, community, workplace, and school planting and educational projects. They have also assisted with street tree surveys and research projects and written tree care articles for state and local media.



Minnesota Tree Care Advisor Program

The **Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) workshops** have trained more than 60 people to apply the principles of EBM in their communities. One of the groups who participated, from Lino Lakes, used the EBM approach to institute collaborative residential development in a rapidly growing suburb. The participants learned that the principles of EBM are applicable throughout the state, from inner-city neighborhoods to rural towns. EBM has become the standard training method of the DNR Forestry Division.

The DNR Forest Health Specialists have partnered with county Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide technical and financial assistance **to control oak wilt** outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Because of this cooperative work with rural landowners, the state has started to reduce the geographic range of this disease.

Three regional Urban and Community Forestry Councils formed because of the need to foster communication and cooperation among neighboring towns. The councils, catalyzed by the participants of the annual Tree Inspector workshops, now meet several times a year to provide site visits or specific training workshops. A fourth regional council is now forming, spawned by the annual Northeast Minnesota Community Forestry Workshop.

The **Minnesota Urban and Community Forestry Council (MnSTAC)** produced the first three quarterly issues of the newsletter, *The Advocate*. This new communications tool provides a broad range of tree-related information to community tree advocates throughout the state. The readership is approaching 4,000 citizens, including all 201 state legislators.

MnSTAC's quarterly newsletter, *The Advocate*, is a new way to disseminate information to community tree advocates and government officials across the state.

Federal Program Support *Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	264.5	268.3	258.2	230.1

Missouri

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The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) assists communities in the development of sustainable urban and community forestry programs in communities across the state.

Program Components

Tree City USA
Cost Share Assistance
Coordinating Volunteers
Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

Highlights

The **Branch Out Missouri** program provided $494,887 in cost share funding for 76 tree planting projects which resulted in 5,663 trees planted.

A goal of the MDC urban and community forestry five-year plan was met when 40 communities, including six new communities, received **Tree City USA** status. In addition, three utilities were recognized as Tree Line USA companies.

A new cost share program called **T.R.I.M. (Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance)** is being developed to provide communities with funding for non-tree planting projects. This will include urban tree inventories, hazard tree identification and management, routine pruning activities, educational materials, and tree ordinance development. This program is an attempt to create sustainable community forestry programs complementing the existing Branch Out Missouri tree planting program.

MDC forester assists 4th grade students with an Arbor Day tree planting project.

Working with **Forest ReLeaf** of Missouri, MDC supported new and existing volunteer groups with technical and financial assistance. The TreeKeepers program, which trains volunteers for community tree maintenance, continued to expand in communities such as **Springfield, Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, and Columbia.**

The **Missouri Treescape Awards** recognized outstanding tree planting projects. The First Lady, Mrs. Jean Carnahan, presented the awards to the towns, businesses, community groups, and individuals who completed projects benefiting their communities.

The MDC continued to support the **Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (MUCFAC)** which utilizes volunteers to educate the public about urban and community forestry programs. The annual MUCFAC conference, held in conjunction with the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, provided a forum to dispense technical advice to 100 professionals. This year MUCFAC developed the "Communitree Awards" to recognize communities, non-profit groups, and individuals who had accomplished outstanding urban and community forestry projects.

MDC forester presents a check for Branch Out Missouri cost-share assistance to an elementary school.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	380.9	299.5	263.9	259.2

New Hampshire

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The New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program works with communities to raise awareness about the importance of community trees and forests and their care and maintenance. The State Program assists community officials, businesses, and residents in planning cooperatively to derive the economic, social, and environmental benefits from the proper management of the urban forest.

Program Components

Technical Assistance
Education
Land Management
Volunteer Training

Highlights

With the assistance of Master Gardeners and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension staff, over 40 participants from the school community and the neighborhood turned the grounds of the sparsely landscaped **Ledge Street School** into a welcoming green space. They created planting beds, installed shrubs, perennials, and annuals, mulched, and improved eroded paths. The project has been incorporated into the school curriculum, and the teachers and students are excited to continue improving the school's landscaping.

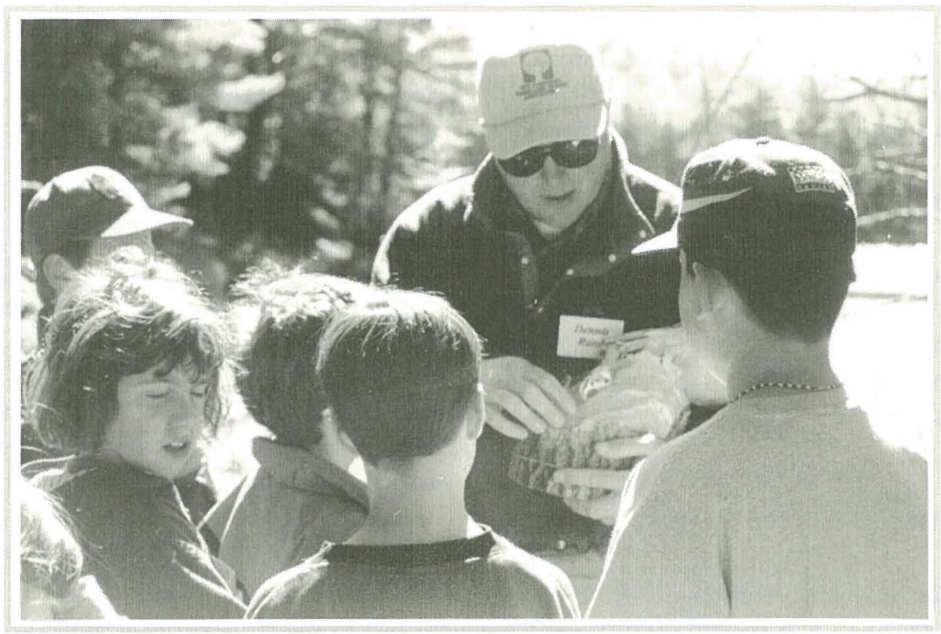
This year 40 **New Hampshire Community Tree Stewards** volunteered a total of 1,455 hours. They assisted more than 30 New Hampshire communities by serving on tree committees, working on landscape projects, evaluating and inventorying trees, and fundraising.

The **Cedar Street Family Park in Manchester**, on the site of a former crack house, continued to provide a community space for families to recreate and celebrate holidays. The community has shown its pride and ownership of this park by weeding, watering, planting, and reseeding it with minimal assistance from the Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services and the Community Tree Steward Program. The efforts to maintain the park have been a catalyst for the neighbors to work in their own yards planting gardens and adding trees and shrubs.

Anne Krantz and Joan Pushy have worked with many organizations in the **Town of Amherst** to maintain and improve the town's natural resources. They organized a townwide cleanup and assisted with many beautification projects in the town center with the Amherst Gardeners, the Conservation Commission, and the local scout troops. As a result, Amherst was recognized by the New Hampshire Arborists Association at a State House gathering. Governor Shaheen presented the town with a New Hampshire Community Beautification Award for outstanding efforts at public landscaping.

The Portsmouth Garden Club and the Urban Forestry Center of the Division of Forests and Land cosponsored a **Festival of Trees** benefitting local historic gardens and conservation programs. Approximately 2,500 people participated in this two-day event at the Urban Forestry Center in **Portsmouth**. This family event provided a medium to educate people of all ages about the importance of trees in their lives.

Approximately 125 fourth grade students form the Strafford Elementary School and Northwood Elementary School attended a **Forest Field Day** at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy in Northwood. High school students in the forestry course at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy served as instructors. The event served as an educational excursion to a forest for elementary school students to learn about wildlife, forests, tree growth, soils, and other natural resources.



Students learning about forests and other natural resources at the Forest Field Day at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	195.9	196.5	208.7	977.1*

*Includes $793,000 in Ice Storm funds

New Jersey

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New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation, and the population continues to increase. The New Jersey Community Forestry Program strives to address the specific risks and broad challenges that threaten urban forests and the overall health of New Jersey's environment.

Program Components

Partnerships
Technical Assistance
Research
Legislation
Education
Grants

Highlights

In 1998, the New Jersey Community Forestry Program received a **National Arbor Day Award** from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The State Program was recognized for its work in advancing urban and community forestry through the passage of the **New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act**.

The **Green Communities Grant Program** provided $130,000 in grants to 65 towns and three counties to create community forestry management plans. These plans will insure the town's commitment to develop a long-term and proactive approach to urban forestry.

New Jersey led the nation with the recognition of 11 new **Tree City USAs**. In the last five years the number of Tree City USAs has increased an average of 13% a year to a total of 96 in the state.

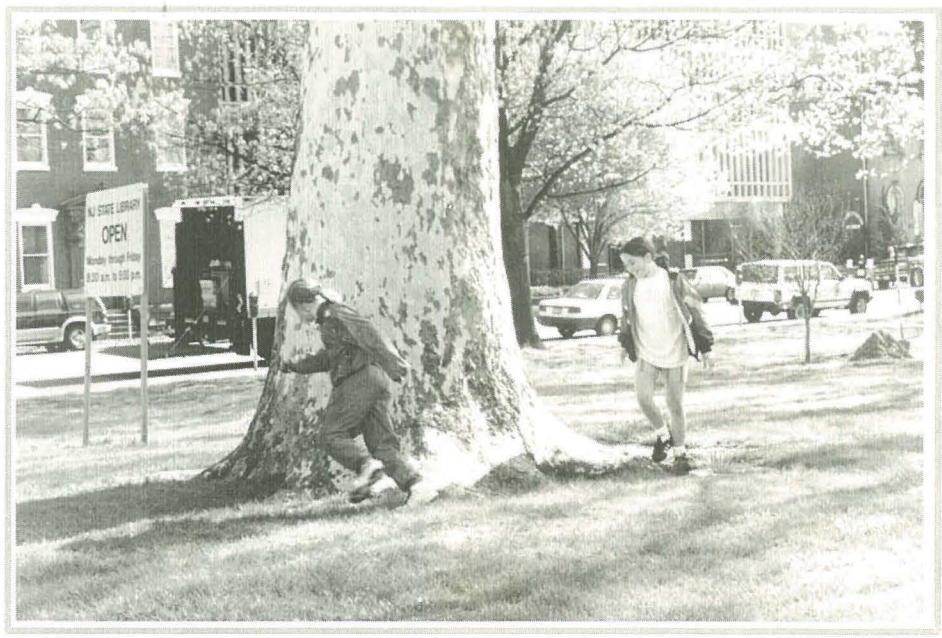
The **"Community Forestry Update" newsletter** was initiated to communicate opportunities and issues in community forestry to the state's residents and over 2,500 policy makers. An expanded 42-page booklet about **New Jersey's Big Trees** was developed in response to increased public interest in the state's "Green Giants."

This year, the largest group of individuals since the program's inception passed the **Certified Tree Experts** (CTE) exam. This six-hour test, considered the most difficult certification exam in the country, is comprised of written and field sections. This accomplishment is an indication of the growth and success of the CTE program and the high standards throughout the state.

The Jersey City Urban Forestry Project was developed to **assess the effects of urban trees on air quality**. The baseline data from this study will be used to develop a model to quantify the benefits of the urban forest in terms of the removal of toxins and pollutants, tree cover, and carbon storage.

As the only legislatively created Community Forestry Council in the nation, the **New Jersey Community Forestry Council** continued its outreach to local units of government. The council helped to develop local management plan standards and established the Core Training Curriculum as part of a statewide training skills program. To stress the importance of long-term training and up-to-date information, the Council also developed a continuing educational unit requirement. This training should help reduce towns' tree litigation.

The New Jersey Community Forestry Council and the Community Forestry Program developed a marketing strategy, **Celebrate Arbor Day New Jersey**, to promote Arbor Day celebrations. This progressive initiative encouraged participation by the public and partners and provided opportunities for media coverage at the state and local levels. The strategy's five components are the State Arbor Day Celebration, Celebrate Arbor Day NJ - "Count Us In," the Arbor Day Children's Contest, Proclaim Arbor Day New Jersey, and an Arbor Day Activity Guide.



Enjoying the trees on the grounds of the State Library in Trenton

Federal Program Support *Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	746.1	633.4	314.1	289.9

New York

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New York State's Urban and Community Forestry Program is a partnership of public, private, and volunteer organizations that fosters comprehensive urban and community forestry planning, management, and education throughout the state to create healthy ecosystems and enhance citizens' lives. The State Program brings together diverse communities to promote public understanding of the value of urban forests and to advance their ecologically sound development, management, and use.

Program Components

Technical Assistance
Grant Aid
New York ReLeaf
Disaster Assistance

Highlights

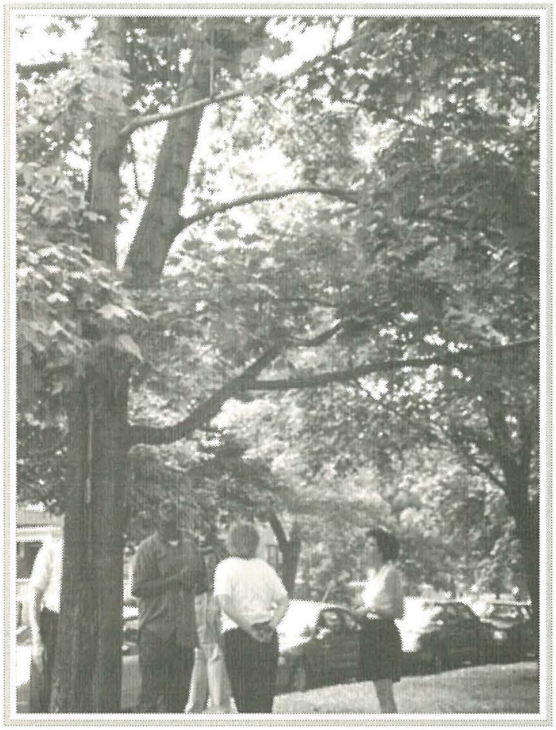
The New York Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded **26 grants totaling $140,000** for urban forestry education projects and planting projects with an educational component.

In 1998, New York suffered a major ice storm which shut down communities in northern New York for a 2-3 week period. State forestry staff assisted communities in identifying hazardous trees and applying for federal disaster assistance funds. After the initial response a program of education and restoration was initiated. With $2 million in federal assistance earmarked for northern New York communities, a grants program was instituted to develop urban forestry plans for affected communities and to provide cost share funds for the implementation of restoration efforts.

The Annual **New York ReLeaf State conference** was organized by the Urban Forestry Council and the Long Island ReLeaf Committee. The nearly 200 participants, from a wide variety of backgrounds, learned about important new techniques for tree management, attended hands-on demonstrations, and networked with peers.

New York ReLeaf

The **Asian long-horned beetle** infestation in Brooklyn and Amityville posed an additional threat to New York's urban forest. Through continued education and restoration efforts the regreening effort is under way. A replanting program has been initiated to replace the trees removed on private lands with a mix of federal, state, and local funding. In New York City, 50 homeowners had 139 trees replaced in their backyards, in addition to the 1,121 street and park trees planted in 1998.



Inspecting trees for Asian long-horned beetles

A two-day Urban Forestry School was offered to train the state's forestry staff in urban forest management. Foresters from all regions of the state attended the program organized by Cornell University and the Northeast Urban Forestry Center at the University of Massachusetts. The foresters learned inventory techniques, site selection and analysis, planting techniques, species selection, tree maintenance, and plan development. Follow-up workshops are planned for the coming year.

The annual **Arbor Day poster and bookmark** and the **New York State Tree Nursery School Seedling Program** served to promote Arbor Day and provide educational opportunities for innovative schoolteachers. The nursery produced school seedling packets for schoolyard plantings of windbreaks and plants that attract wildlife. The tree planting projects were combined with lessons in biology, energy conservation, and erosion control. In 1998, over 750 schools participated in the program.

The State Program has been strengthened by the development of a **five-year strategic plan**. A mission and vision for the program were developed by a cross section of individuals representing grass roots organizations, industry, utilities, educators, and government agencies. Through continued efforts the completed plan should be in effect for 1999.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	442.2	743.9	642.0	740.9*

*Includes $262,000 in Ice Storm funds

Ohio

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Ohio's Urban Forestry Program is dedicated to the idea that urban forest benefits are only realized when communities commit to managing their public and private trees. The rapport that state urban foresters develop with participating communities is a critical factor in helping municipalities progress from awareness to commitment to action.

Program Components

Direct Community Assistance
Information Facilitation
Grant Program

Highlights

For the 16th consecutive year **Ohio led the nation in the number of designated Tree City USA communities**. These 212 cities and villages demonstrated their commitment to managing local resources, as well as the effectiveness of the State Program's mission. With help developing and strengthening comprehensive tree care programs, these communities were able to plant twice as many trees as were removed while maintaining over twice the number of trees planted.

A partnership with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Attorney General's Office produced $110,000 in grants from air pollution fines for several tree planting efforts across the state.

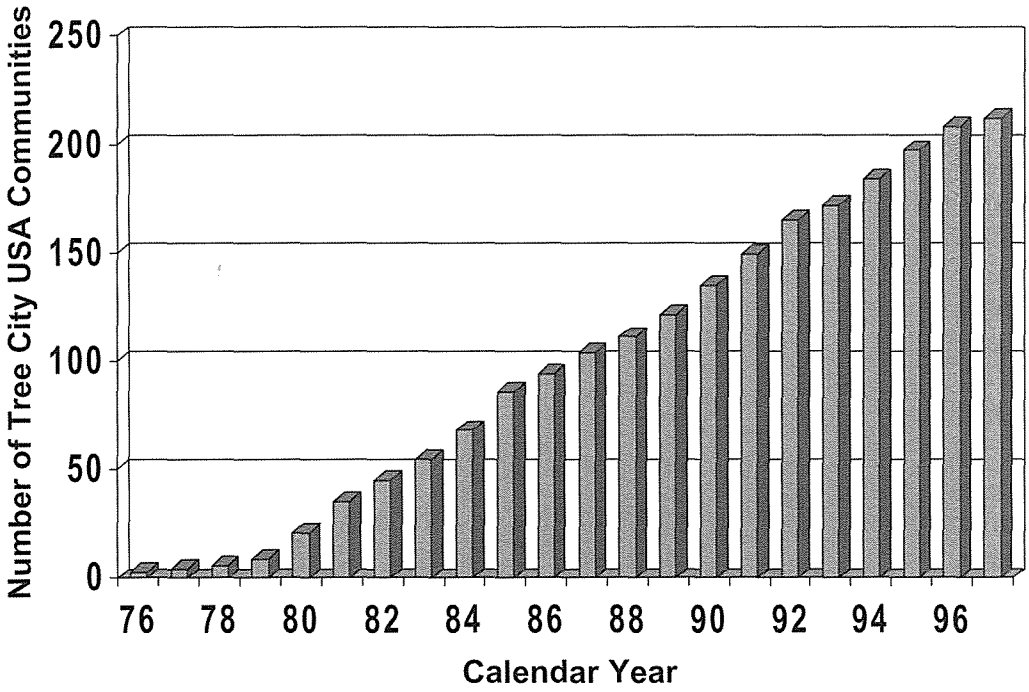
Over 3,500 seat hours of urban forestry educational programs were provided to community officials, city foresters, shade tree commission members, and allied agencies. Each of Ohio's six urban foresters hosted a regional conference to disseminate information to local communities in their quest to manage their resources efficiently and effectively. Additionally, a statewide symposium was co-hosted with Ohio State University exclusively for Ohio's city foresters.

Thanks to funds provided by the USDA Forest Service's Forest Health Program, the Division of Forestry cooperated with Ohio State University on a significant **Street Tree Evaluation Project** (STEP). Utilizing a quarter century of data collection, STEP examined how selected urban plantings performed over several decades. The purposes were to aid in selecting the most useful trees for various environmental conditions and to show how trees affect street character over time.

"Ohio's Urban Forestry Program remains successful by providing the organizational and technical assistance communities require to address local needs."

Tree City USA - OHIO

1976-1997



The Tree City USA graph indicates the influence of state assistance. Substantial growth in the number of designated Tree City USA communities occurred only after the initiation of Ohio's Urban Forestry Program in 1979.

Federal Program Support *Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	530.6	418.5	375.2	369.9

Pennsylvania

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The Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program provides the means and resources to establish and maintain the urban forest in communities across the state. This assistance beautifies communities and elevates the pride and level of involvement of Pennsylvania residents.

Program Components

Workshops and Conferences
Technical Assistance
Grant Aid
Tree Programs

Highlights

The extension urban forester, with faculty from the College of Agriculture at Penn State University, participated in a pilot **community-based environmental education project in Allegheny Township**. A series of meetings were held with the goal of increasing citizen participation in the decision-making process. Steps included community issue analysis, values clarification and visioning. By building capacity for collaborative decision making and institutionalizing the process, the quality of life will be enhanced for all citizens in the community.

A $44,000 grant from The William Penn Foundation assisted 33 communities in southeastern Pennsylvania through **Community Tree Stewards Training**. Four new shade tree commissions were formed, four inventories were conducted, a management plan was written, a non-profit volunteer organization was formed, and 400 tress were planted.

Membership in the **Southeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association** increased from 50 to 80. Advanced workshops were held on pruning woody plants, conducting a tree tender program, and detecting hazardous trees. The 174 attendees of the **"Natural Habitats: Creating and Maintaining Commercial and Public Landscapes" workshop** learned how to create natural habitats.

The Pennsylvania College of Technology's Forestry Department and **the City of Williamsport undertook an inventory of the city's trees on 110 miles of street**. This inventory provided needed information and the impetus to embark on the first phase of the Hazardous Tree Project. With in-kind contributions from the Street and Parks Department and the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, 135 hazardous trees were removed. The second phase of the project, with a $20,000 federal grant, will replace an additional 100 hazardous trees with appropriate species.

The Extension Urban Forestry Program, in cooperation with the Natural Lands Trust, provided nine **"Growing Greener" workshops** for 300 planners. The participants received information on conservation subdivision design and how to include the natural environment into zoning, subdivision, and other ordinances.

A former fly ash landfill near **Meadville** is being redeveloped for recreational, industrial, and educational uses. This 173 acre brownfield site provides a riparian nature trail, space for growing trees in a community nursery, an outreach education center, and restoration demonstration area as well as the Crawford County Industrial Park.

A Pennsylvania community tree planting

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	512.1	629.5	569.4	649.5

Rhode Island

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Communities throughout Rhode Island have embraced the Urban & Community Forestry Program to restore and maintain their green infrastructure. These communities have demonstrated their commitment to urban forestry by matching the grants they have received with their own funds on a two to one basis.

Program Components

Technical Assistance
Tree Planting
Financial Support
Partnerships

Highlights

Over **6,000 trees have been planted** in the last five years with funding from America the Beautiful and Small Business Administration Tree Planting Grants. These grant programs, administered by the Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator, have provided almost $1,000,000 in funds which have been matched by an additional $1,300,000 during this period. In addition to tree planting, the funds have supported educational opportunities, tree maintenance and inventories, and the Rhode Island Tree Council (RITC).

Trees for Local Communities, an idea borrowed from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, provides small grants to communities to increase awareness of urban and community forestry. Project funding has been used for Arbor Day celebrations, seed money to start local tree advocacy groups, and brochures to educate the public on the benefits of trees. Local workshops on tree pruning and planting, development of tree identification trails, and small beautification planting projects have also been funded. Many small contributions from local groups and volunteers have increased the effectiveness of this program. This project has been an excellent promotional campaign that also helps provide funding to grass roots organizations.

Glocester Town Council President, Paul Fogerty, digs in to celebrate Arbor Day.

The GreenShare Program, Arborist Project, a partnership among the University of Rhode Island (URI), the Division of Forest Environment, and the Green Industry, provided scientifically accurate and environmentally sound information to landscape professionals. The Arborist Project expanded the original GreenShare program to provide certification and reference materials to professionals in a single training program. In the past two years 200 people have attended the GreenShares training workshops which have focused on integrated pest management and sustainable landscaping. Combining the Arborist Project at the same location with the Learning Landscape and the Sustainable Landscape gardens at URI has facilitated education opportunities for professionals and homeowners.

Citizens of South Kingstown formed an advocacy group for trees, the **Advisory Council on Trees for South Kingstown (ACTSK)**, to protect the town's tree resources. ACTSK pushed the town to conduct an inventory of the street trees. The results will be compared to a volunteer street tree inventory produced with the assistance of the state, URI, and the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry. ACTSK is now working with the Town Council to pass a Town Tree Ordinance and has developed a tree awareness program for specimen trees. The awareness program has drawn enormous press coverage and a positive community response. The RITC hopes to duplicate ACTSK's citizen activism in every other Rhode Island community.

Professionals learning urban forestry techniques as part of the GreenShare Program, Arborist Project

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	212.4	170.7	204.3	163.1

Vermont

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The mission of the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program is to promote the stewardship of urban and rural forest landscapes to enhance the quality of life in Vermont communities. This mission attempts to recognize the need to manage the ecosystem as a whole and examines methods of linking social, economic, and environmental benefits. This is accomplished by providing assistance in a manner both unique and appropriate to Vermont communities and by remaining flexible to local needs and goals.

Program Components

Public Awareness
Technical Assistance
Partnerships
Education
Volunteer Training
Municipal Outreach

Highlights

A total of $65,000 was awarded to 31 municipalities and volunteer organizations for street tree master planning, tree planting and maintenance, and educational programs. This financial assistance leveraged an additional $70,000 in local community matched funding.

The Law of Trees, a four-page brochure, was published by the Vermont Institute for Government in cooperation with the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program. Targeting municipal officials, it illustrates the importance of the town tree warden and the legal issues concerning trees. The publication has been distributed to every municipality in the state, to tree wardens, and to consulting foresters. A public service television program about the brochure reached 100,000 households.

The January ice storm caused severe damage to trees throughout the state. In cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, workshops were held on identifying and evaluating hazard trees for municipal officials at ten locations, for professionals in the landscape industry at three large trade shows, and for affected homeowners at ten venues. Safety issues were always at the forefront.

In the aftermath of the January ice storm the **City of Burlington** updated its tree inventory, began a streetscape master plan, held homeowner educational workshops, and leveraged private donations for future restoration.

Branch Out Burlington (BOB) is the volunteer advocacy tree group in Burlington. The organization helped coordinate outreach efforts for communities in the Chittenden County area and promoted urban forestry restoration after the January ice storm. The State Program provided technical and financial assistance to BOB and twenty other volunteer groups throughout the state.

The Burlington Free Press, Vermont's largest daily newspaper, sponsored "Trees for

the 21st Century," a fundraising program in response to the January ice storm. Working with the newspaper, the U&CF Program assisted with public awareness and educational efforts. As a result, over $100,000 was raised for needed tree maintenance and replacement. During the duration of the fundraising campaign, the *Free Press* printed weekly editorials and other articles on the social, economic, and environmental benefits of trees. **Stewardship of the Urban Landscape** (SOUL) is a unique community volunteer training program that combines urban forestry skill building with leadership training. During FY 1998, 18 volunteers participated in the 40-hour training, and the past graduates helped sustain local program efforts, including BOB. As a result of this year's training, three new local programs were initiated.

The State Program launched its web site as part of a department-wide initiative. Program opportunities, a calendar of events, and direct e-mail access to urban forestry staff are provided.

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy at Battery Park, Burlington for the city's "Trees for the 21st Century" kick-off event

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	220.6	185.7	190.3	1,052.1*

*Includes $871,700 in Ice Storm funds

West Virginia

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Urban Forestry Coordinator
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fax: (304) 367-2795

The West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Program continued to make community leaders and citizens aware of the importance of the urban ecosystem. The State Program conveyed this message through personal contact and assistance to communities and associated groups throughout the state.

Program Components

Awareness
Promotion
Technical Assistance
Volunteer Participation

Highlights

In FY 1998, a total of 3,710 trees were planted and 103 communities were assisted by the State Program. In addition, 14 cities received Tree City USA status.

Thirty-one **Demonstration City Grants** were awarded with $80,672 in federal support. These funds leveraged an additional $119,579 from local recipients. Communities benefited from the planting of 830 trees and 483 shrubs, the elimination of over 130 hazard trees, the creation of three outdoor classrooms, and the development of inventories and management plans.

The **City of Morgantown** continued its citywide tree inventory in order to develop a management plan for street trees. The tree board organized community tree plantings, developed a tree ordinance, began a hazard tree program, and continued to educate residents.

The **City of Buckhannon** developed a professional inventory and management plan with its Demonstration City Grant. The tree-care budget was then optimized for removals, maintenance, and planting. In addition, the financial investment enhanced public awareness and volunteer capacity in the community.

The **Town of Ceredo** invested in future tree establishment by constructing a municipal nursery on an abandoned city lot with its Demonstration City Grant. Because it can now grow quality trees from seedlings, the town can allocate funds for maintenance and public outreach programs. In the future the city will be able to provide trees to surrounding communities.

This year the 35 participants in National Tree Trust **community tree planting projects** included garden clubs, schools, youth clubs, sports organizations, action groups and small communities. Over 600 volunteers planted a total of 2,880 seedlings after leveraging $9,178 in local donations. These projects, in conjunction with community outreach, conservation education, and volunteer efforts, will produce long term social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Education and training were a major focus of the State Program. At 16 workshops across the state, 360 people were trained in tree

maintenance techniques. In addition, the State Program began teaching urban forestry at the West Virginia Environmental Studies School.

The **Urban and Community Forestry Council** experienced tremendous growth this year. Bylaws were adopted and officers were elected. Working groups tackled issues and projects concerning outreach, recruitment, legal concerns, Arbor Day programs, publicity, and Demonstration City Grants. A new community forestry newsletter published its first issue.

The Urban Forestry Coordinator presents the Tree City USA award to the mayor of Morgantown, Charlene Marshall, and other city officials at an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	226.0	242.5	229.1	220.6

Wisconsin

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The mission of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Program is to encourage and enable sound management of Wisconsin's urban forest ecosystems and the Forest Service's broad outcome of "Vital Communities Through Healthy Ecosystems."

Program Components

Public Awareness
Program Support
Partnerships
Technical Support
Dynamic Planning and Management
Research & Education

Highlights

DNR Forestry awarded 60 new cost-share grants totaling $627,627 to communities and non-profits using state and federal funding, including a state budget increase of $200,000.

Fifteen workshops on **Tree Hazard and Risk Assessment** were attended by a record 670 people. The State Program also cosponsored a statewide urban forestry conference with the state arborist and landscape architects societies attracting a record 460 participants.
This year 117 Tree City USAs, 25 Growth Awards, and two Tree Line USA utilities were certified, all new records.

Urban forestry's impact and appeal extends to small communities like the **Village of Dresser**, (pop. 644). The village clerk and maintenance superintendent partnered with a local utility, a consultant, volunteers, and the WDNR to form a tree board, conduct a tree inventory, write a tree ordinance and management plan, replace trees, develop a tree care brochure and celebrate Arbor Day. Once an unfamiliar term, urban forestry is now a distinguishing characteristic of this small rural village.

The **City of Stevens Point** and the University of Wisconsin developed a **GIS tool for assessing the green space value** of undeveloped land. Map "layers" depicting natural resource characteristics, property ownership, zoning districts, and current land use were analyzed to identify lands with high ecological, recreational, and aesthetic value. This prioritizes lands for acquisition and preservation to develop inter-community greenspace systems.

The WDNR and the **City of Milwaukee** convinced the legislature to provide $100,000 over two years to develop a **private property tree planting demonstration project** to show neighborhoods and small communities how to take urban forestry beyond public rights-of-way. A partnership with the nonprofit, Greening Milwaukee, this project will plant trees on private property through citizen education and involvement and establish a method for other groups and communities to follow.

DNR Forestry produced technical and informational publications. A four-color brochure on **oak wilt disease** and on building in the rapidly developing parts of the state was distributed to field foresters and other professionals, and a quarterly newsletter was circulated to more than 3900 recipients.

Wisconsin's 1998 **Arbor Day Poster Contest** winner, Ryan Stephens, Almond-Bancroft School, Almond, WI, won the National Arbor Day Foundation's competition. Ryan was honored at a ceremony by Wisconsin's Governor Thompson and by the NADF at its Arbor Day Award Ceremony in Nebraska City, NE. In addition, an Arbor Day calendar highlighting the top poster contest entries was distributed to thousands of people.

Local tree care companies, dismayed with the condition of the street trees in the City of Janesville, (pop. 51,000) started the **Janesville Shade Tree Advisory Committee** along with parks staff and WDNR assistance. Their long-term goal is to develop a comprehensive tree care program in Janesville. While it is common for commercial arborists to support community tree care efforts, it is far less common for a half-dozen competing arborist to initiate this. They recognize that their success will not only increase the health and aesthetics of public trees, but will improve stewardship of private trees as well.

Governor Thompson presents Ryan Stephens with the Arbor Day poster contest award.

Federal Program Support

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
	330.0	285.8	280.4	258.8

2. The Federal Program

In addition to providing leadership and financial and technical assistance to individual states and organizations in order to manage natural resources effectively in populated areas, the Federal Urban and Community Forestry Program provides a national and regional context that helps the states to respond to natural disasters and crises as well as emerging issues.

At the federal level the Urban and Community Forestry Program is driven by a periodic assessment of issues and opportunities identified by a cross section of individuals dealing with urban issues. Rapid growth and development in metropolitan regions and small communities and the negative impacts of that growth on forest, air, and water quality have been identified as key issues to be addressed by natural resources managers in urban areas. These issues are the focus for the national strategy entitled *Vital Communities Through Healthy Ecosystems*. The strategy is implemented in cooperation with the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, state foresters, and other partners at the federal, state, and local level.

At the regional level the Northeastern Area has developed the *Urban Forestry Five-Year Plan, 1995-1999*, which reflects the national program. The plan emphasizes an improved quality of life through ecologically-based natural resource stewardship and provides a framework in which the twenty Northeastern Area states and the District of Columbia participate while maintaining autonomy to identify, prioritize, and develop their own plans.

Effective, long-term solutions depend on close cooperation among government agencies and the public being served to meet the economic, social, and environmental needs in all communities. Within the Northeastern Area problems are identified and resolved at the local level with the government providing technical and financial support as needed.

The technical assistance provided to state urban and community forestry programs includes assessing and monitoring the health of our urban forests. The USDA Forest Service is meeting the challenge of adapting its more traditional forest health assessment and monitoring sciences to the unique conditions of the urban forests.

Various federal program activities, such as forest health, natural resource conservation education, and economic action are integrated with the urban and community forestry program to provide technical support to state and local urban forestry functions.

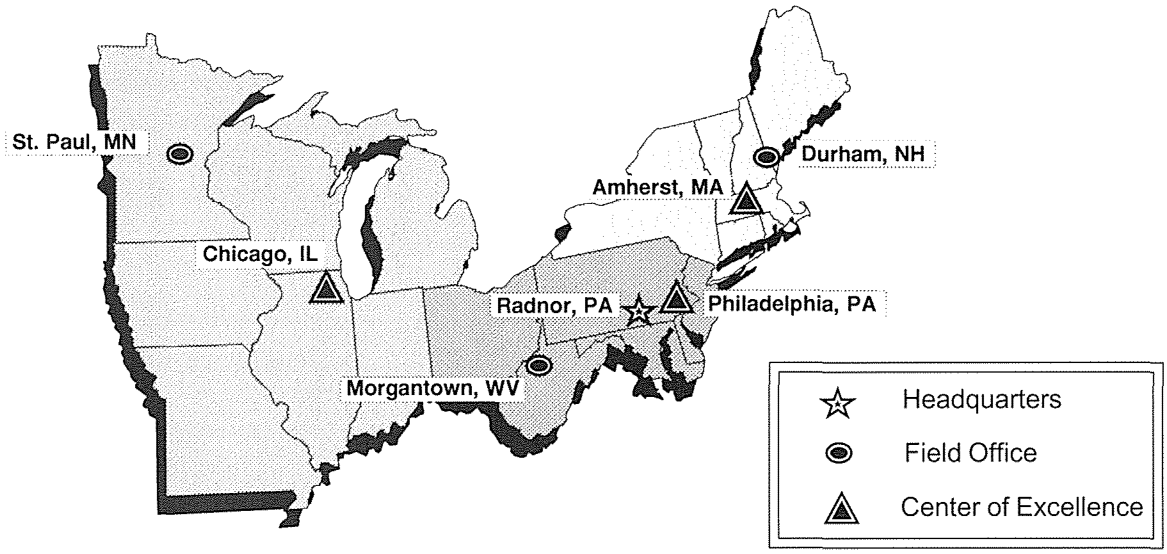
The Northeastern Area

The Northeastern Area of the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, provides technical and financial support for urban and community forestry projects and promotes natural resources management as a means to address the economic, social, and environmental needs in communities. In addition to Urban and Community Forestry, several other USDA Forest Service program areas, such as Forest Health, Natural Resources Conservation Education, and Economic Action, support urban and community forestry projects. All program areas promote partnerships among federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as private and non-profit organizations, to improve the quality of life of the people and communities in the region.

The Northeastern Area encompasses approximately 30,000,000 acres with a population of over 114 million people. USDA Forest Service technical and managerial staff are located in three field offices that serve three subareas within the Northeastern Area. This decentralized staffing structure facilitates communication with state-level counterparts and assists in regionalized approaches to problem solving.

New York and the New England states are served from the Durham, NH Field Office. The Morgantown, WV Field Office works with the six states in the Mid-Atlantic subregion, and the St. Paul, MN Field Office serves the seven Midwestern states. There is also a USDA Forest Service urban forester located in Washington, DC to coordinate federal activities in the Washington metropolitan area, and an urban forester located at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, PA who assists with program coordination in the Mid-Atlantic States.

Three Centers of Excellence have been developed - the Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States in Chicago, IL; the Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; and the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, Amherst, MA. These centers support the technology transfer component of the Federal Urban Forestry Program and partner with Forest Service research, universities, and conservation organizations.



URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Contact:
John Currier
Radnor, PA
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The Northeastern Area's Urban and Community Forestry Program utilizes the talents of a diverse team of professionals including urban foresters, plant pathologists, entomologists, foresters, technology transfer specialists, and others, to support the needs of the 20 northeastern states and the District of Columbia. The Federal Program accomplishments reflect support for traditional efforts such as tree planting and maintenance, insect and disease management, and supporting volunteer efforts, as well as the increasing emphasis on issues relating to urban natural resources management that incorporate social, economic, and environmental needs.

Community Future Forum

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The Northeastern Area, in partnership with Region 8 and the Washington Office, the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, the National Association of State Foresters, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services implemented a two-year project entitled the *Community Future Forum*: *Building a Natural Resources Agenda for the 21st Century.* The project will enable diverse groups of interested parties to identify the opportunities and threats associated with our growing communities, consider future implications, and develop strategies to address them. A kick-off event was held in Washington, DC with over 120 participants. An interactive website was established to encourage dialogue between participants and advertise future opportunities to help develop a natural resources agenda for the 21st century.

Media Outreach Activities

Contact:
Dan Kincaid
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The Northeastern Area supports communications and media outreach by hosting training sessions, presentations, and workshops to assist partners and clients with their media activities. In addition, the Northeastern Area is assisting the National Urban and Community Forestry Team in developing a nationwide communications plan to include marketing, media relations, internal communications, and conservation education.

The Asian long-horned beetle infestation in Chicago is one example of how effective media relations can help inform the public and increase awareness and understanding of urban environmental issues. Reports on the ecology of the beetle and the scientists working on the effort dominated the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times* for three straight weeks and catapulted topics such as invasive exotics, global trade, and forest health to features on Good Morning America, McNeil/Lehrer, and Nightline. The media have been so helpful in disseminating information on the beetle that two additional infestations were reported and acted on in record time.

Urban Wildlife

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Durham, NH
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In 1994, a Northeastern Area Wildlife Program was created to provide technical assistance to the 20 Northeastern Area states and the District of Columbia. The program has been coordinated by a wildlife biologist located in the Durham, NH field office. In 1998, additional program contacts at the Morgantown, WV and St. Paul, MN field offices and at the Northeastern Area's headquarters in Radnor, PA, including the wildlife program coordinator, formed a Northeastern Area Wildlife Team to help facilitate geographic expansion of the program and enhance efforts in urban wildlife. Urban wildlife was formally incorporated into the Northeastern Area Urban Forestry Program in 1995 in the *Urban Forestry Five-Year Plan, 1995-1999.*

In 1998, seven urban wildlife technical assistance workshops were funded and delivered to audiences in Maryland and New Hampshire. Topics covered included backyard wildlife enhancement techniques, nuisance species, species inhabiting backyards, and the incorporation of wildlife objectives into landowner management plans. In addition, 190 state partners from the Northeastern Area were surveyed to determine urban wildlife technical assistance needs.

Natural Disaster Assistance

Contact:
Lisa Burban
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tel: (651) 649-5245

A disaster can dramatically alter the natural and urban landscape in an extraordinarily short period of time. Disasters in the Northeastern Area take many forms and include blizzards, hurricanes, tornadoes, windstorms, ice storms, and flooding. Federal, state, local, private, and public organizations and agencies must always be prepared to react quickly to such devastating events. Over the past year the Northeastern Area worked with a number of groups and states on the following projects to prepare for and recover from natural disasters.

Responded, in partnership with state forestry and state and federal emergency management agencies, to the destructive January 1998 ice storm that damaged forests in northern New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. Congress provided an Emergency Supplemental appropriation of $48 Million to the region for disaster recovery and natural resource replenishment. The Durham Field Office created and now maintains an **Ice Storm Recovery Team** that provides networking for critical information among partners.

Worked with the **"Minnesota Recovers from Tornadoes" Task Force** on various urban and rural tree planting efforts, accelerated technical assistance for landowners, and training for technical assistance providers.

Coordinated, as a member of the Minnesota Interagency Living Snow Fence Task Force, a "**Living Snow Fence Symposium**," to educate members of federal, state and local agencies on the causes of snow drift and how living snow fences can control the movement of snow. The Task Force has established several living snow fences and has funded 50 future sites.

Supported the **Minnesota/North Dakota Greenspace Recovery Initiative,** along with the Washington Office and Region I, to address damage from the 1997 Red River Flood. After the flood existing open space preservation efforts in Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN were strengthened because a large tract of land was acquired and protected from development. Federal funds were used to inventory and assess the natural resources in this open space.

Supported, with the International Society of Arboriculture, the production of "**Storm Recovery – Trees**," a newspaper package by the National Arbor Day Foundation for print media and urban forestry cooperators across the nation. The package includes information on tree care, professional arboriculture, and urban forestry and will address the demand for assistance by homeowners that typically follows a storm event.

FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM

Contact:
Gerry Hertel
Radnor, PA
tel: (610) 975-4124

The Forest Health Program assists state and federal land managers to detect, evaluate, monitor, and take action against native and non-native pests. The overall program goal is to sustain the health and productivity of trees and forest ecosystems in America's urban and rural areas by reducing the impacts of insects, diseases, weeds, and wildfires.

Insect and Disease Suppression and Eradication

Invasive non-native pests pose a serious threat to our native tree populations. The Northeastern Area is working with other federal, state and local agencies to devise strategies to protect the region's forests while at the same time participating in a global economy. The Asian long-horned beetle (ALHB), gypsy moth, and Dutch elm disease are examples of exotic pests that threaten the health and productivity of urban forests within the Northeastern Area.

Asian Long-Horned Beetle

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For New York:	For Chicago:	
Amy Snyder	**Gina Childs**	**Dennis Haugen**
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Asian long-horned beetle (ALHB), a serious and widespread pest in China, is entering our country in the wooden packing material of imported goods from China. Since 1995, USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspectors have discovered infested wood packing from China in 26 locations in 14 states. Intensive eradication activities are occurring in several communities in the New York City and the Chicago metropolitan areas.

The beetle is devastating because it can kill its host tree, primarily maples and other hardwood trees, within a few years. The larvae bore large tunnels under the bark and into the wood, which girdles the branch. Repeated attacks cause dieback of the tree crown, and eventually death of the tree. Currently, chipping the infested trees has been successful at destroying the beetle. The ultimate objective of the program is the eradication of this pest.

In Chicago, ALHB infestations were detected at 3 separate locations in 1998. Estimates are 375 infested trees for Ravenswood, 33 infested trees for Addison, and 4 infested trees for Summit. Infested trees will be cut and destroyed during the winter. The Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry staff is assisting USDA APHIS and the Illinois Department of Agriculture with detection surveys, technical expertise, tree replanting, and public outreach efforts.

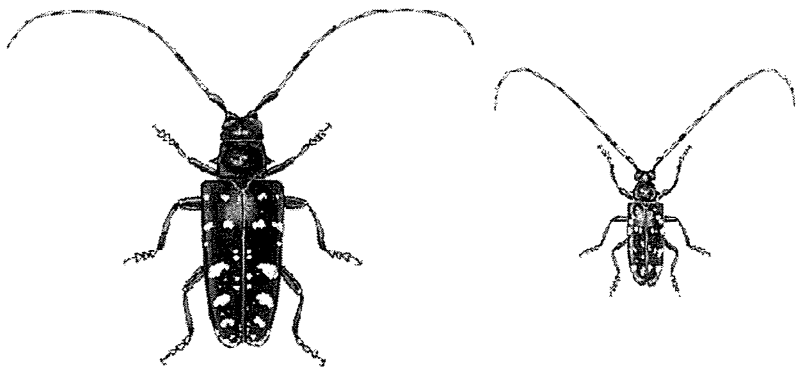
In Brooklyn and Queens, New York, The ALHB was first discovered in Brooklyn, NY attacking Norway maple trees in August, 1996. The New York State Agriculture and Markets in cooperation with APHIS identified a quarantine zone encompassing the area and began inspections of street and backyard trees and removal of host trees. As of September 1, 1998, 1206 trees have been removed in the Brooklyn and Queens area.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NY DEC) in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service was charged with replacing trees on private property. As of the spring of 1998, 1250 trees had been planted in the Brooklyn and Queens area. The planting program continues as beetle surveys identify new infestations.

In Amityville, New York, the ALHB was discovered about one month after the initial infestation in Brooklyn. During 1997 and 1998 about 640 trees were removed. In 1998, three municipalities requested and received funding for tree planting efforts. In August 1998, a new infestation was found two miles east of Amityville in Lindenhurst. The continuing discovery of infested trees in previously inspected private and public properties has made replanting efforts difficult.

A team made up of staff from the Northeastern Area, North Central Forest Research, the USDA APHIS, and New York City and New York State agencies received the prestigious USDA Honor Award for its work in combating the ALHB in Brooklyn and Amityville, New York.

ALHB home page: http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/asianbeetle/beetle.htm



Actual size of female and male Asian long-horned beetles

Gypsy Moth

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John Omer
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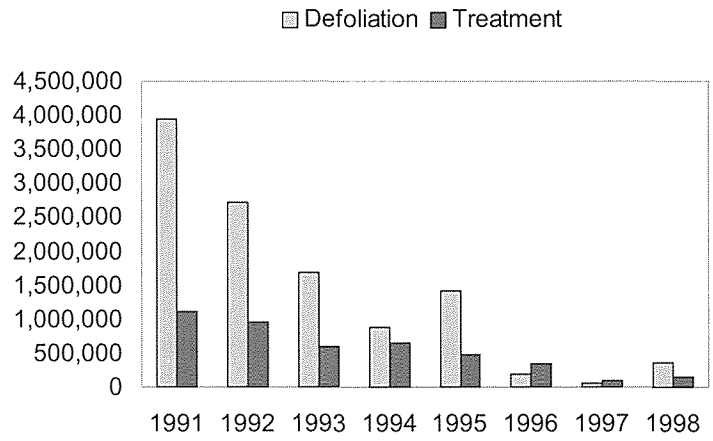
The gypsy moth, the most serious insect pest of oak and other hardwood forests in the eastern United States, consumes the leaves of over 300 different tree species during the spring and early summer. This leaf damage seriously weakens affected trees, leaving them vulnerable to other life threatening diseases and insects. Gypsy moths change the natural diversity of the forests, degrading water quality and wildlife habitat, and impacting recreational activities.

Gypsy moths are currently established in all or parts of 17 states and the District of Columbia. Since the mid-1990s a fungus that kills only gypsy moth caterpillars has mitigated the damage caused by this exotic pest. The insect affected fewer trees in 1997 than in any year since 1960. However, in 1998, some states again experienced increases in gypsy moth populations. Since fungus caused reductions in gypsy moth populations are highly variable and unpredictable, insecticide treatments will continue to be an important tool for protecting forests and trees.

In 1998, the Forest Service provided an estimated $7,377,000 in financial assistance and technical assistance to protect 200,848 acres in Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin and West Virginia. Although these funds were a decrease from the previous seven-year average of $12,368,000, the allocation supported suppression, eradication and "Slow the Spread" projects.

Figure 1. Total number of acres defoliated by gypsy moth and the acreage that received treatment to control gypsy moth.



Source: GMDigest, Forest Health Protection, Morgantown, WV.

Gypsy moth home page: http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/fhp

Dutch Elm Disease

Contact:
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The Northeastern Area, the District of Columbia's Department of Public Works - Trees and Landscape staff, and the USDI National Park Service- National Capital Area are cooperating to retard an outbreak of Dutch elm disease that is occurring in the District of Columbia. The Northeastern Area provided $300,000 to the Department of Public Works to assist with eradicating Dutch elm disease in the city. The disease is controlled by promptly removing dead and dying elms infested by the beetles that spread the disease.

Forest Health Monitoring Program

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The National Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Program was developed in response to increasing concern for the potential effects of atmospheric pollutants, global climate change, and a variety of insect, disease and other stressors on the health of our national forests. Many of the stressors that negatively impact the health of our national forests also negatively impact our urban forests; therefore, the principles of the National FHM Program can also be used to track the health conditions of our urban forests. In 1998, two innovative forest health monitoring projects were funded to assess the management needs and health of trees in community forests using criteria complimentary to those of the National Forest Health Monitoring Program.

Hazard Tree Management Program

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A Regional Hazard Tree Training Team, composed of staff from the St. Paul, MN, Durham, NH, and Morgantown, WV field offices, was established in 1992 to develop a training program for the delivery of hazard tree identification and management information to federal and state partners in the Northeastern Area.

This program focuses on conducting "Train the Trainer" workshops, which provide states and urban forestry professionals with the tools and resources needed to conduct their own workshops. In 1998, a total of 11 workshops and four lecture sessions were held. Seven of the workshops were in response to requests for assistance after the January ice storm in New England and New York.

Forest Health Publications

Contact:
Patricia Dougherty
Radnor, PA
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The Forest Health Program transfers new technology and information on forest health management to landowners and state partners via annual forest reports, popular publications, technical publications, press releases, videos, and other technology transfer methods. These publications provide timely information on forest health issues such as the impacts and management implications of natural disasters and forest pests, and the application of new technologies to sustain the health and productivity of our trees and forest ecosystems. Below is a listing of publications produced in 1998.

"Ice Storm 1998: How to Determine Percent Live Crown Loss in Hardwoods Before Leaf-Out." Information Sheet #1. USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH. 1pp.

"Ice Storm 1998: Lucky Break for Wildlife." Information Sheet #5. USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH. 1pp.

"Ice Storm 1998: Helping Trees Recover From Ice Storms." Information Sheet #8. USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH 1pp.

"Massachusetts Tree Wardens Guide to Common Insects and Diseases." 1998. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension.

"Urban Forest Health Training Manual: 1998 Draft Workbook." Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, and the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry.

"Urban Forest Health Needs Assessment Survey: Results and Recommendations." 1998. NA-TP-01-98. Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry. St. Paul, MN . 28pp.

"Growing Needs of Urban and Community Forestry Programs." 1998. Congressional Briefing Paper. USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area. St. Paul, MN. 2pp.

"How To Identify and Manage Dutch Elm Disease." 1998. NA-PR-07-98. USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry. St. Paul, MN. 27pp.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Contact:

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Conservation Education provides technical and financial assistance to state forestry agencies and other partners to promote the development of an environmentally literate citizenry that can make informed decisions affecting forests and other natural resources.

In FY 1998, an implementation team was established to determine how to carry out the recommendations, approved by Chief Dombeck, for the direction of conservation education. These recommendations included focusing on the sustainability of natural and cultural resources and developing an awareness of the interrelationships in natural systems and between people and the land. Target audiences of these recommendations include youth, urban communities, and National Forest visitors.

Woodsy Owl

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The Conservation Education program uses the Forest Service symbol, Woodsy Owl, to convey the importance of natural resources in every community. The revitalized Woodsy continues to "give a hoot," and he sends the message "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land." During 1998, he spread his message at Major League Baseball games; Eastman Kodak sponsored the distribution of thousands of colorful posters of Woodsy Owl and Bill Nye, The Science Guy. In addition, public service announcements in English and Spanish brought an animated Woodsy Owl to children on 1,200 television stations. A Woodsy Owl Activity guide for children ages 5-8 teaches children about the natural world and the fundamentals of conservation.

Project Learning Tree

Contact:
Kathy McGlauflin
Washington, DC
tel: (202) 463-2455

Envirothon

Contact:
Brenda Weiser
League City, TX
tel: 1-800-825-5547, ext. 27

Through an interagency agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Northeastern Area helped to sponsor workshops for urban youth and educators focusing on the new Project Learning Tree high school modules and the Envirothon program. Workshops were held in California, Illinois (Chicago), and Massachusetts.

ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM

Contact:
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The Economic Action Program strengthens the economic conditions of communities through the wise use of forests and related natural resources. Four program components are rural development through forestry, wood in transportation, economic recovery, and forest products conservation and recycling. In FY 1998, four workshops were held on the topic of urban tree utilization to provide training for urban and community forestry professionals.

Marketing and Utilizing Urban Trees

This 4-hour session was offered at the 1998 Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course in St. Paul, MN. Nearly 40 individuals from tree service companies, municipal forestry departments, and government agencies participated in the program which included an indoor session as well as an outdoor field exercise. The University of Minnesota Extension Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board were the workshop cosponsors.

Urban Trees- Are They a Residue or a Resource?

This session was presented at the second national Storms Over the Urban Forest Conference held in Nebraska City, NE. Topics presented to the 60 participants included a national perspective on urban tree wood utilization, a case study of Minnesota's response to storm-generated wood, and the incorporation wood utilization into a community's emergency response plan. A field exercise featured log grading and a portable sawmill demonstration. Speakers represented the Northeastern Area- Economic Action Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Recycling Trees

This session was presented at the Oklahoma Timber Utilization Conference held in Eufaula, OK and was cosponsored by the New Jersey Forestry Service. Manufacturing and marketing sawlog products from municipal trees were the featured topics.

Utilizing City Trees: A Workshop on Marketing City Tree Removals

This full-day training workshop held in Amana, IA was attended by 35 urban foresters, city arborists, and tree care professionals. Workshop topics included marketing street trees for sawlog products, volume and tree quality estimation, log handling and manufacturing, and metal detection. The New Jersey Forestry Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division were the workshop cosponsor.

3. Centers of Excellence

Three Centers of Excellence support the technology transfer component of the Federal Program and partner with Forest Service research, universities, and conservation organizations.

Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

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Philadelphia, PA 19118
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The Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum conducts urban forestry advocacy, education, research, and demonstration programs serving regional, state, and local needs. This public/private partnership enhances the capacity of each organization to deliver information and technical assistance to a range of constituencies concerned with natural resources management.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Directing the Northeastern Pennsylvania Community Forestry Program with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the USDA Forest Service. In its fourth year this award winning grant program continues to integrate natural resources management with regional economic and social revitalization (p. 74).

Chairing the Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership. This team of federal, state, and non-profit agencies and organizations delivers financial, technical and educational resources to Philadelphia communities involved in natural resources management and education (p. 83).

Providing assistance to state Urban and Community Forestry Councils in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania by working with the state urban forestry coordinators to implement their program goals and plans.

Providing arboricultural training seminars and workshops in DE, CT, NJ, NY, PA and VA, which reached over 500 professional tree managers and acted as representative for arboricultural standards (ASCA for ASCI A-300).

Provided education for professionals, community members, and youth. Ecosystem-based Management (EbM) training was provided to state and local audiences, such as the EbM pilot project in North Hampton, NH. Forty courses on land management, riparian restoration, horticulture, and plant care were attended by 771 adults. Over 4,800 youth were educated on urban conservation.

Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States: Chicago, IL

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USDA Forest Service
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fax: (847) 866 - 9506
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The mission of the Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States (the Center) is to identify urban and community forestry information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and coordinate the exchange of information. The Center is a cooperative partnership between the Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and the North Central Forest Experiment Station which serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Providing technical and financial assistance to congressional initiatives in Illinois including Chicago Wilderness, Mayor Daley's GreenStreets Program and DePaul University's Urban Forestry Program. In addition, Center personnel co-chair the Urban Resources Partnership in Chicago.

Co-editing the State Urban and Community Forestry Coordinators' monthly newsletter distributed to all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories. The newsletter includes updates of issues of regional and national concern in urban and community forestry.

Developing a marketing component for the Urban and Community Forestry Program's National Communications Strategy. The Strategy's purpose is to increase awareness of the Urban and Community Forestry program to the media, Congress, key organizations and selected individuals.

Serving as the Urban and Community Forestry Representative on the USDA Forest Service Conservation Education Implementation Task Force to develop a coordinated Conservation Education Program. The Program targets youth, National Forest System visitors, and urban dwellers and informs them about forest sustainability and the interconnectedness of natural resources.

Providing technical and financial assistance to technology transfer projects resulting in one international conference, two regional conferences, two publications, one video set and one slide set in 1998. Topics covered included Dutch Elm Disease, urban ecosystem-based management , environmental service learning, urban-tolerant trees, and tree selection, planting, and care.

Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry
Amherst, MA

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North East Center for URBAN & COMMUNITY Forestry

The Northeast Center is a cooperative partnership of the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry in the Northeastern Area, the University of Massachusetts, the six New England states, and New York. The mission of the Center is to respond to urban and community forestry information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and coordinate the exchange of information among states that contributes to healthy, sustainable communities.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Developing a Hazard Tree Train-The-Trainers Workshop and Training Manual for urban and community foresters in New England and New York. The two-day workshop included lectures and site visits to evaluate hazard trees. It is expected that each participant will provide training on the materials presented in the workshop to audiences in their own state.

Testing the Urban Forest Health Monitoring Pilot Project to determine the feasibility, usefulness, and implementation of a long-term program examining the health of urban trees. This pilot developed monitoring criteria for urban trees that were compatible and complimentary to the Nation Forest Health Monitoring Program.

Initiating a model program, Regional Response to Storm Emergencies in Urban Communities. Ten municipalities, utilities, and regional planning agencies were recruited to cooperate in this pilot project. Initial protocols were drafted for how communities can pool resources in order to increase efficiency, reduce response times, and lower costs. This project is expected to serve as a model for regional approaches to disaster response and recovery in urban and community forests.

Providing technical assistance in Burlington, VT, New Haven and Stamford, CT, and Boston, Brookline, and Marblehead, MA. Tree inventories were completed by community volunteers and urban forestry practitioners. Field testing of volunteer training procedures, data acquisition methods, and mapping protocols were examined for ease of use, cost, and reliability.

4. National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Grants

NUCFAC works to establish sustainable urban and community forests by encouraging communities of all sizes to manage and protect their natural resources for current and future generations. NUCFAC has established a national Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program that supports urban and community forestry activities with a national impact.

NUCFAC Challenge Grants Awarded for Projects in 1998

The University of Delaware received a $32,000 grant to produce and distribute a display that will educate customers at garden centers about proper tree selection, planting, and care.

Iowa State University received a grant of $87,500 to assess the relationship between tree survival and growth and selected environmental parameters known to vary across the continuum from rural to urban landscapes.

The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point was awarded $19,503 to investigate the nitrogen dynamics of selected shade tree species in urban conditions and how these dynamics are influenced by landowner practices.

The Eagle Eye Institute of Somerville Massachusetts, received a grant of $95,000 to produce a public service announcement entitled "Trees are My Friends in an effort to increase the participation of minorities in the urban forestry movement.

The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) of Washington, DC was awarded $43,892 to support the regional Urban and Community Forestry Train the Trainer workshops.

The Delaware Center for Horticulture and its partners received a grant of $56,300 to develop and analyze four roadside planting models for ecological sustainability, reduced maintenance activity, and aesthetic appeal.

Ohio State University was awarded a grant of $21,170 to study the relationship between tree roots and sidewalk failure in various environmental conditions.

Community Resources of Baltimore, Maryland received a grant of $41,975 to identify current and potential urban non-timber forest products and link these resources to potential micro-enterprise opportunities nationally.

5. Congressional Initiatives

Several congressional initiatives intended to explore an improved quality of urban living through expanded federal, state, and local partnerships were funded in Fiscal Year 1998.

Chicago Wilderness

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CHICAGO WILDERNESS

A Regional Nature Reserve

Chicago Wilderness is the name for both the unique natural areas extending from northwestern Indiana through northeastern Illinois to southeastern Wisconsin and the 69 conservation organizations that have joined together to restore, protect, and manage these lands. The 200,000 acres of Chicago Wilderness provides habitat for 181 species listed as threatened or endangered in the State of Illinois and contains some of the best surviving examples of tall grass prairie and oak woodlands in the country--all this in the backyard of 8 million people.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Funding 26 projects in five target areas: science, land management, education and outreach, policy and planning, and demonstration.

Increasing member organizations from 34 to 69, with more applications pending.

Publishing ***Chicago Wilderness Progress Report: The First Two Years***. The report provides an overview of Chicago Wilderness and its vision for the land.

Launching the Natural Wonders of Chicago Wilderness Campaign. Twelve sites around the region are highlighted in a natural areas guide featuring 29 nature walks, a poster depicting the native flora and fauna of the region, and a calendar highlighting some of the natural wonders of the Chicago wilderness.

Developing the region's first comprehensive vegetation map from satellite images using a $195,000 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The map will provide the foundation for the regional Biodiversity Recovery Plan and will allow scientists and land managers to monitor progress towards established conservation goals.

Expanding the Mighty Acorns program to five more counties in the Chicago metro area using a $108,671 grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation. Integrated into school curricula, this program brings students in grades 3-7 to natural areas and introduces them to land stewardship.

DePaul University

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The Environmental Science Program of DePaul University is focusing much of its efforts on studying the natural areas in the Chicago metropolitan area and promoting their restoration and maintenance. The Urban Forestry Program of the Environmental Science Program, in partnership with USDA Forest Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and other conservation organizations, provides a mechanism for faculty and students to interact with the scientific community in the Chicago metropolitan area. These interactions will enable students to develop practical understanding of the science underlying the restoration and management of forests, prairies, wetlands, savannas, and river corridors.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Providing financial support for faculty and staff of the Urban Forestry Program.

- One full-time faculty member who is an ecologist studying the macroinvertebrates associated with forest soils.
- A laboratory manager to coordinate and support laboratory and field work.
- An office manager to provide administrative and program support.

Developing a laboratory and curricula for courses in dynamics of forest ecosystems, ecosystem restoration, landscape ecology, and urban forest management. Collaboration has begun with other faculty and staff on wetland projects and with others in the Chicago area on forestry-related projects. A raptor study has also been initiated at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie near Joliet, IL.

District of Columbia Initiative

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In response to the President's call for action in 1997, the USDA developed an aggressive plan to renew the nation's capital. The Plan of Action for the District of Columbia (DC) builds on successful existing programs and creates new ones through partnerships among community groups, local government and federal agencies. The Plan of Action consists of three initiatives and a pilot project: the Urban Environmental Resources Initiative, the Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Initiative, the Citizen Service and Volunteer Initiative, and the Education for Sustainability Pilot Project. These programs support natural resources management and community sustainability.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Dutch Elm Disease

The USDA Forest Service, the DC Department of Public Works - Trees and Landscape Division, and the National Park Service are cooperating to retard an outbreak of Dutch elm disease in DC. The disease is controlled by promptly removing dead and dying elms infested by the beetles which spread the disease.

Urban Nursery

The University of the District of Columbia partnered with the USDA, National Tree Trust, and others to create a model urban nursery at the University's Agricultural Experiment Station. The nursery will provide indoor and outdoor classrooms as well as growing space for a variety of groups. The University will continue growing vegetables and herbs for research and for donation to various shelters and food banks in DC.

"Make a Difference Day"

USDA agencies, the Points of Light Foundation, USA Weekend, Best Friends Foundation, DC Department of Recreation and Parks, Deputy Agriculture Secretary Richard Rominger, Retired General and Mrs. Colin Powell, and many other participated in a national day of community service, "Make-A-Difference Day." Volunteers, led by AmeriCorps youth, removed debris, planted shrubs and perennials, and repaired and painted benches.

Education for Sustainability Pilot Project

Representatives of USDA, the Smithsonian Institution, and the District Institution for Growth met with South African scientists to develop plans for 12 DC teachers to help collect data on plant diversity in South Africa.

GreenStreets

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Mayor Daley's Green Streets Program
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fax: (312) 744-3267

The Chicago GreenStreets Program addresses urban forestry needs in the region by focusing on tree planting and care, recycling, and open space revitalization. The nine year old initiative restores deteriorated neighborhoods and enhances public open space through public/private partnerships and community involvement.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Planting more than 4,000 trees throughout Chicago

- 400 trees at 40 schools, including 40 at an Arbor Day event at Norwood Park
- 400 trees along Milwaukee Avenue, 100 trees along Central Avenue, 160 trees along Harlem Avenue, and 65 trees in the Wrightwood Avenue median-all main arterial streets
- 60 trees at North Park Village during an Arbor Day Celebration
- 100 trees along South State Street including two new pocket parks

Beautifying Along the Chicago River

Two hundred flower boxes were planted along the main branch of the Chicago River in conjunction with the opening of the Riverfront Cafes.

Two hundred trees, 3,000 vines, 125 shrubs, and thousand of perennials were planted along the North and South branches of the Chicago River.

Greening the Chicago River Locks

Extensive beautification efforts along the Chicago River Locks began by excavating gravel, installing topsoil, and planting 40,500 tulip bulbs and 20 honey locust trees. The project will conclude in the spring of 1999 with the planting of 79 additional trees, shrubs, and perennials, and the installation of an irrigation system.

Planting Along the Orange Line

This two-year landscaping project to enhance train stations along the Orange Line was completed with additional plantings of trees, shrubs, and bulbs.

GreenStreets is planting 6,000 vines along walls and bridge abutments throughout the city to deter graffiti.

The Kiski Basin & Environs Initiative: Johnstown, PA

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The Kiski Basin & Environs Initiative (Kiski) is directed by the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance, in collaboration with Pennsylvania State University, the PA Urban & Community Forestry Council, the PA DCNR-Bureau of Forestry, and various local partners in the Johnstown, PA area. Beginning in 1998, the program undertook projects which recognized the critical roles of both natural and cultural resources in creating and sustaining a viable economic future. Some of the long-range goals of the initiative are improved land use planning, establishment of eco-tourism services and facilities, conservation and preservation of natural and cultural resources, economic development, assistance in rural fire protection programs, enhancement of urban and community forests, and educational workshops and training sessions aimed at increasing the awareness of regional problems, opportunities, and solutions.

The over-arching objectives of the initiative are to correct past land use abuses, particularly stream damage from mining practices, involve local citizens and organizations in implementing solutions to the problems, and revitalize the area through conservation and appropriate economic development. The initiative includes assembling technical resources to assist local units of government implement community planning and development strategies. An initial funding level of $60,000 for 13 projects in 1998 is expected to increase to $200,000 in 1999.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Gathering information and mapping it in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) format to begin better planning and development strategies for using natural resource stewardship to enhance the economic and social revitalization of the region.

Enhancing the community forest resources of the area with tree plantings.

Stabilizing streambanks with riparian tree plantings and assisting with remediation efforts of degraded streams.

Increasing public use of recreation sites, trails, and other areas through tree plantings, improving parking areas, and other efforts designed to increase community pride and eco-tourism opportunities in the area.

Helping complete a environmental education nature trail, which is handicapped accessible, in Cambria County.

NE Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Demonstration: Scranton, PA

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The Northeastern Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Program (NEPA) is directed by the Center for Urban Forestry, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry. Since 1995, the program has successfully integrated ecological restoration with regional social and economic development by supporting partnership building activities, stewardship, and environmental awareness. The program's use of natural resources stewardship to promote regional vitality and quality of life has had a positive and lasting effect on the post-industrial metropolitan areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Major accomplishments of the program are the integration of conservation and socioeconomic issues and the creation of diverse partners to implement urban forestry projects in six counties throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. Between 1995 and 1998, 350 partners joined to complete 31 demonstration projects. A new funding cycle has provided 27 additional grants ranging from $3,000 to $500,000.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Integrating the economic and social revitalization of Northeastern Pennsylvania with natural resource stewardship.

Improving the ecological health of the region by planting approximately 4,000 trees, eradicating 17 stands of Japanese knotweed, and completing two riparian restoration projects.

Restoring 13 community parks and supporting two regional Rail-Trail projects.

Using 12,000 volunteer hours to complete 31 demonstration projects, utilizing 15 school districts to involve 300 students in forest stewardship activities.

Sponsoring community forestry and environmental training workshops for professionals and teachers attended by over 400 people.

Providing Tree Liability Grants to assess 1,361 urban trees, remove 391 hazardous trees, prune 394 dangerous trees, and replant 361 street trees in six communities. These numbers are expected to double upon completion of the 1998 Tree Liability projects.

Revitalizing Baltimore

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Revitalizing Baltimore (RB) is a national model community forestry project that is funded by the USDA Forest Service and managed by the Parks & People Foundation. This project is a partnership among the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, Baltimore City and Baltimore County, several other non-profit organizations, three community-based watershed associations, businesses, and academic institutions. The partnering organizations are working together to improve the quality of life in culturally diverse urban neighborhoods by restoring natural resources in the Baltimore region. RB helps residents protect natural resources in their communities and supports youth programs to create the stewards of the future. RB also strengthens community-based environmental research, improves community-based decision-making, and collaboratively creates urban forest management plans.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Promoting Community Forestry

Community forestry activities were completed in 34 urban neighborhoods by several organizations: 1,255 trees were planted with the help of 1,646 volunteers who worked 3,497 hours, two tree nurseries were established, and a survey revealed that 83% of the trees planted in the last five years have survived.

Providing Environmental Education and Leadership Development for Youth

KidsGrow taught 120 elementary school students neighborhood environmental stewardship in after-school programs and provided six-week summer environmental day camp for 80 middle school students; eight high school students also began the new KidsGrow Ambassadors program.

Communities Organized to Revitalize our Environment, sponsored by Outward Bound, involved 27 students in three wilderness expeditions and three weekends of community service restoring the Herring Run watershed and Patterson Park.

Irvine Natural Science Center provided outdoor environmental science lessons to 1,200 Baltimore City elementary school students at their schools.

Strengthening the Watershed Organizing and Restoration Initiative

Community associations in the Gywnns Falls, Jones Falls, and Herring Run watersheds organized stream restoration projects, held events attracting over 2,000 people, and encouraged community input in public decision-making.

6. Urban Resources Partnerships

The Urban Resources Partnership (URP) is a program that puts federal resources into the service of community-initiated and community-led environmental projects. At least seven federal agencies, including the USDA Forest Service, are providing funding and on-site technical assistance to education and restoration efforts in 13 cities throughout the country. The Northeastern Area serves six of these cities:

- **Boston, MA**
- **Buffalo, NY**
- **Chicago, IL**
- **East St. Louis, IL**
- **New York, NY**
- **Philadelphia, PA**

Mission

The Urban Resources Partnership Program advocates and assists community-based action through local partnerships to enhance, restore, and sustain urban ecosystems in their respective cities. These actions contribute to the improvement of the social, economic, and physical well being of the people and their natural environment.

Through the Urban Resources Partnership Program thousands of communities are receiving support to turn vacant lots into vibrant community gardens, restore degraded rivers, revitalize public parks, plant trees to improve the quality of life, and educate youth about their environment. More importantly, the program is building new relationships between government agencies and the community.

Greater Boston URP

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The Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership (GB-URP) is a coalition of community organizations and agencies, businesses, and federal, state, and local governments, "Connecting community and the environment." The Partnership's mission is to help urban communities implement strategies that link social, economic, and environmental concerns. To that end, the Partnership's members work together to build stewardship and support services and to provide expertise, funding, and in-kind services.

Greater Boston URP natural resources goals:

- Working together to promote advocacy, build stewardship, and support projects that contribute to a healthier, safer, more natural urban environment.
- Assisting diverse neighborhoods, communities, and grass roots organizations to enhance the quality of life.
- Providing leadership, sharing resources, skills and expertise, and building a teamwork approach to delivering services.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Developing Partnerships

The Chelsea Creek Action Group, a GB-URP Pilot Project of 3 community-based organizations, has worked together since 1996 to improve the ecological function of their urban watershed. The coalition has inventoried trees, held an environmental fair, and provided valuable training about environmental and public health issues in the watershed. GB-URP technical assistance, as well as funding, has been crucial in the success of the coalition.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Each of the 9 GB-URP projects consisted of a community planning and education process and involved minority youth in the implementation of projects. Increased community awareness has led to the sustainability of projects and a greater interest in the urban environment.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

By coordinating GB-URP's diverse financial and technical resources throughout the Greater Boston region, the Partnership has played a role in community-based efforts to manage natural resources. The Partnership has helped to develop community gardens, improve access to urban rivers, develop natural resources job training programs, and increase environmental awareness.

Buffalo URP

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The Urban Resources Partnership of Buffalo is a team of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations formed to enhance the region's environment and quality of life through innovative public and private partnerships. This is accomplished by supporting community action and sustainable projects that preserve, restore, and revitalize the natural resources of Buffalo.

Buffalo URP natural resources goals:

- Use federal, state, and local resources effectively through a more efficient and sustainable delivery of technical, financial, and educational assistance.
- Assist community efforts to conserve, restore, and revitalize natural resources in urban areas.
- Expand and diversify natural resource partnerships.
- Encourage sustainable urban greening projects that improve and enhance community access and recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and ecosystem integrity.
- Demonstrate the relationship between environmental quality and the quality of life.

Accomplishments in 1998:

The Buffalo URP has been developing the organizational framework and the protocol necessary to support community-based environmental projects. The Buffalo URP has placed a strong emphasis on community partnerships in its first request for proposals (RFP). The RFPs were distributed to area community groups, government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations. The Buffalo URP is working with the 16 accepted proposals to help these new partners to finalize their projects for grant funding. These projects, when completed, will

- Add to the City's tree stock to help cool and clean the air.
- Improve soil quality and infiltration rates and minimize erosion.
- Add new, or restore existing, green space for passive and active recreational use.
- Supplement the area's wildlife habitat.
- Educate organizations and residents about the importance of natural resources in the city.
- Introduce school children to the environmental sciences and careers in natural resources.

Chicago URP

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The Urban Resources Partnership (URP) in Chicago during its first four years of operation has sponsored over 60 projects, leveraged over 4.5 million dollars, involved more than 5,000 volunteers, restored or enhanced over 750 acres of urban land, and provided educational opportunities for hundreds, maybe thousands, of students. In 1998, URP sponsored 15 projects ranging from streambank and dune restoration to park and public housing enhancement.

Chicago URP natural resources goals:

- Open Space Enhancement
- Water Quality Improvement
- Urban Habitat Creation, Enhancement, and Management
- Environmental Education and Stewardship
- Ecosystem Management Techniques

Accomplishments in 1998:

Nature Along the Lake, Montrose Point Enhancement Project

The After School Action Program sponsored a project for a diverse group of youth to enhance land on Chicago's lake front in cooperation with the landowner, the Chicago Park District. This program provided a valuable learning experience for youth and improved a primary stopover point for migrating birds.

Bronzeville Greenway

The Mid-South Planning and Development Commission, a community-based organization, has embarked on the development of an urban greenway on an abandoned right-of-way. The greenway will eventually connect several historic boulevards, provide valuable greenspace, and create opportunities for inner city residents to become involved in urban forestry. The site will include a native species nursery to supply plants to other local greenspace development projects.

Lathrop Homes River Trail

The Friends of the Chicago River have continued their work on a nature trail along the historic Chicago River. The project, adjacent to public housing will involve the residents and volunteers from across the city. The trail will be part of a continuous river walk featuring a wetland and interpretive areas.

East St. Louis URP

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The Partnership advocates and assists community-based action through local partnerships to enhance, restore, and sustain urban ecosystems in the East St. Louis Metropolitan Area. These actions contribute to the improvement of the social, economic, and physical health of the residents and their natural environment.

East St. Louis URP natural resources goals:

- Emphasize use of local resources and partnerships to meet project goals.
- Manage urban ecosystems to protect, restore, enhance, create, and sustain floodplains, wetlands, forests, and green lands.
- Create job opportunities and sustainable economic development related to natural resource opportunities.
- Provide information and technical assistance for urban community planning and environmental restoration efforts.
- Promote and improve urban ecosystem information and improve citizens' understanding of the urban environment and the relationships between their actions and their natural surroundings.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Blooming Warriors

The Blooming Warriors developed a second community garden with the assistance of neighbors and children of St. Joseph Garden. The children in the area wanted to make a difference in helping preserve the environment by planting trees to help beautify the community and promote cleaner air.

Neighbors Place Tree Planting/Beautification Initiative

This is a tree planting project to beautify a new residential development (Neighbors Place) of single family homes in Centreville, Illinois. Ten trees will be planted along the streets, and a green space will be created on a corner lot.

Village in Transformation

A program was established to maintain and protect the Village of Brooklyn's natural resources and to create career oriented employment training for project interns. Community sites will be enhanced by beautifying the streets, playgrounds, and public buildings and their grounds. These improvements are designed to increase small business development and community pride and to promote environmental change.

New York City URP

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In New York City, URP is working in partnership with six federal and state agencies to stimulate intra-governmental cooperation and community action by encouraging urban environmental revitalization efforts. The objective of this initiative is to improve the environmental quality of life in under-served communities in the city by providing technical and financial support to local community groups.

New York City URP natural resource goals:

- Promote environmental stewardship through awareness, involvement, and participation of community groups and residents.
- Respond to locally identified priorities and engage communities in program planning and implementation.
- Create a sustainable model of inter-governmental agency cooperation with an effective federal, state, and local partnership.
- Involve youth in experiences that will enhance their understanding of the natural environment.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Andrew Freedman Home Grounds Restoration

Site improvements and significant horticultural improvements are complete and project completion is expected by the end of this year.

Bronx River/Zooway

Progress continued on the school garden site, Zooway corridor, and river park; a new link was forged between the community and the Bronx River through a series of community cleanups.

Jamaica Bay

Jamaica Bay is a vast natural resource area. This project initiated the community building partnership process to enable residents, environmental organizations, and community groups to develop a wide array of environmental education and restoration projects.

Bronx River

The Bronx River project has facilitated the development of a working group of over 30 professionals and community organizations to discuss strategies linking activities and resources along the river. Results include a forestry study and community restoration activities designed to focus attention on the river.

Philadelphia URP

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The Philadelphia URP was established to help enhance the quality of life in the City of Philadelphia through community involvement and inter-agency coordination. The Philadelphia URP is structured as a collaboration of 24 member agencies and organizations who actively support the vision and mission of the partnership, recommend projects for funding, provide technical assistance to funded projects, and contribute resources to further the goals of the partnership. This year Philadelphia URP supported 16 community projects.

The Philadelphia URP natural resources goals:

- Assist community efforts to conserve, restore, and benefit from natural resources.
- Increase awareness and appreciation of nature.
- Contribute to a healthier and safer natural environment.
- Promote the efficient use of federal, state, and local financial and technical resources.
- Foster economic and social benefits derived from people working together for an improved environment.

Accomplishments in 1998:

Community Forestry

20 new trees were planted along streets and 20 hazardous trees were removed. Five new neighborhood parks and gardens were created and one existing neighborhood park and garden was improved.

Restoration

Over 25 acres of woodland were restored and 320 feet of streambank was stabilized.

Environmental Education

90 teachers received environmental education training; 350 youth participated in environmental camps or clubs at 12 recreation centers; 1,200 students were educated about watersheds at school; 1,400 students participated in environmental service learning activities at their school; 938 youth participated in community environmental projects or programs and projects.

7. Federal Financial Assistance

For most states the major share of the federal funding is grouped under two basic systems for allocating dollars: the Base Amount, and pro-rata distribution. Each state receives a $150,000 base amount to support federal requirements to maintain a program coordinator, a volunteer coordinator, a viable urban and community forestry council, and implement a strategic plan.

The remaining allocation is distributed pro-rata, based on the number of communities in each state and their percentage of the nation's population. Recipients match all the federal funds on a 50/50 basis.

Budget Summary for FY 1995 to FY 1998

Dollars in thousands

The State Program	1995	1996	1997	1998
Connecticut	194.5	229.7	213.2	208.3
Delaware	163.7	174.7	170.5	294.8
District of Columbia	431.8	218.0	218.5	388.1
Illinois	377.5	438.8	541.9	364.9
Indiana	272.1	299.3	275.2	261.3
Iowa	218.2	251.2	451.0	316.2
Maine[4]	192.0	230.5	336.4	2289.9
Maryland	394.7	320.5	281.6	302.6
Massachusetts	297.2	288.9	256.0	365.7
Michigan	262.3	362.5	326.5	311.2
Minnesota	264.5	268.3	258.2	235.1
Missouri	380.9	299.5	263.9	259.2
New Hampshire[4]	195.9	196.5	208.7	977.1
New Jersey	746.1	633.4	314.1	289.9
New York[4]	442.2	743.9	642.0	740.9
Ohio	530.6	418.5	375.2	369.9
Pennsylvania	512.1	629.5	569.4	656.5
Rhode Island	212.4	170.7	204.3	163.1
Vermont[4]	220.6	185.7	190.3	1052.1
West Virginia	226.0	242.5	229.1	220.6
Wisconsin	330.0	285.8	280.4	258.8
SUBTOTAL[1]	**6865.3**	**6888.4**	**6606.4**	**10326.2**
The Federal Program & Federal Financial Assistance[2]				
Federal Program[4]	1588.8	938.8	869.6	1064.2
Federal Financial Assistance	61.0	113.8	128.7	84.8
SUBTOTAL	**1649.8**	**1052.6**	**998.3**	**1149.0**
Special Projects, Congressional Initiatives & Pilot State Projects				
Asian Long-horned Beetle	0.0	0.0	500.0	0.0
Chicago GreenStreets	1126.0	700.0	350.0	350.0
Chicago Wilderness	0.0	700.0	700.0	700.0
Cook County Preserve	879.0	113.0	0.0	0.0
DePaul University	0.0	0.0	350.0	350.0
NE Pennsylvania Project	500.0	0.0	1127.0	1250.0
Ohio Arbor Program	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Revitalizing Baltimore	494.0	390.0	300.0	300.0
Special Projects[3]	150.0	215.0	225.0	275.0
SUBTOTAL	**3649.0**	**2118.0**	**3552.0**	**3225.0**
Urban Resource Partnerships				
Boston, MA	0.0	0.0	200.0	150.0
Buffalo, NY	0.0	0.0	50.0	150.0
Chicago, IL	265.0	250.0	250.0	150.0
East St. Louis, IL	250.0	250.0	250.0	150.0
New York City, NY	510.0	671.5	400.0	300.0
Phildadelphia, PA	250.0	250.0	250.0	150.0
SUBTOTAL	**1275.0**	**1421.5**	**1400.0**	**1050.0**
TOTAL	**13439.1**	**11480.5**	**12556.7**	**15750.2**

Notes:

[1] State - All funds not identified in the three categories (Federal Program & Assistance, Special Projects & Congressional Initiatives, and URP)

[2] The Federal Program & Federal Financial Assistance - Support cost. Outside NA State Payment, other payments and common services.

[3] Special Projects - University of Massachusetts, Morris Arboretum, and DC Initiative.

[4] Includes FY 1998 funds for the January ice storm.

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